

THE LIBRARY
OF
THE UNIVERSITY
OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES





with the author's an

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Mistorical Potes

Bv

F. M. BLADEN, F.R.G.S., LOND.,
BARRISTER-AT-LAW

Invat antiquos accedere fontes.

SECOND EDITION.

SYDNEY:

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FOREWORD.

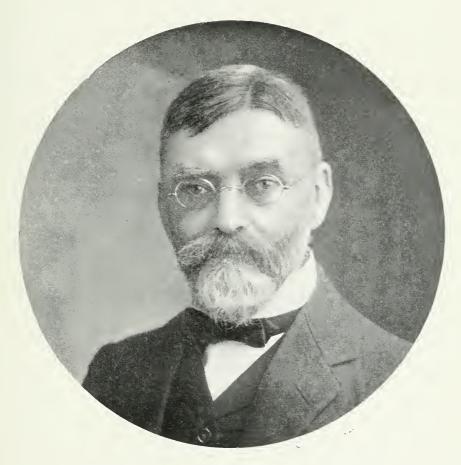
THE task of collecting authentic portraits of the men who, during the early days, were active workers in the library field, has been one of considerable difficulty. I have to express my obligations to Mr. J. Arthur Dowling, Dr. Andrew Houison, and Mr. Hugh Wright, Assistant Librarian, to whom I am indebted for many of the portraits and views.

I shall be glad to receive, at any time, portraits—for preservation in the Library archives—of any of the office-bearers whose names appear in Appendix "A," but whose portraits are not found in these pages.

F.M.B.

Public Library, Sydney.





PROFESSOR M. W. MACCALLUM, M.A., LL.D. President.



Historical Potes.

THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE ceremony of laying the corner stone of the Mitchell Wing of the State Library appears to be a fitting opportunity for permanently recording the chief events in connection with the origin and history of the

Library movement of New South Wales.

The expedient to which the scanty and scattered population of Sydney resorted eighty-five years ago, to secure the circulation of the few books in the colony was ingenious and probably unique. A number of leading citizens made out lists of the books in their private libraries. These lists were consolidated into one catalogue or inventory. Opposite the title of each book listed in this consolidated catalogue, were placed the initials of the owner in whose private library it was to be found. Thus, if Mr. Justice Field wished to consult Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," and found, on referring to



GOVERNOR DARLING.

the catalogue, the initials "J.O.," he would know it was obtainable from John Oxley, Surveyor-General. So, it can be said that, in effect, Australia had a Library Catalogue before it had a Library.

No copy of this singular catalogue has survived. The scheme was originated in the year 1821 by Mr. Justice Field, and Messrs. Oxley, Goulburn, Berry, Douglas, Wollstonecraft, and Irvine. There is no reasonable doubt that the movement thus commenced was the germ of the old Australian Subscription Library, out of which the Public Library of to-day has developed.

On Friday, 3rd February, 1826, ten gentlemen met at the "Sydney Hotel," to consider the advisability of founding a Reading-room and Circulating Library at Sydney. Lieut. De La Condamine, A.D.C. to Governor Darling, then recently arrived, was the leading spirit, prompted, no doubt, by the Governor himself. With him were associated the Rev.



LIEUT. DE LA CONDAMINE.



REV. WM. COWPER. Committeeman, 1826-41 & 1844-46.

William Cowper, Senior Assistant Chaplain; Dr. Douglas, Clerk to the Legislative Council; William Lithgow, Auditor-General; J. Mackaness, Sheriff; Capt. Rossi, Superintendent of Police; William Carter, Master of the Supreme Court; and Messrs. A. Kinghorn, J. Brown, and E. King, merchants. They held written promises of support from several other officers and civilians, and immediately declared the Institution formed under the style and title of the "Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room." The entrance fee was five guineas, and the annual subscription two guineas. At a later date, members admitted on these terms were styled proprietors as distinguished from subscribers, who paid three guineas a year, but no entrance fee.

Within a fortnight, the first general meeting was called. Rules and regulations were drawn up. Admission was by ballot, and one black



THE FIRST BOOK STAMP.

ball in four was fatal. Officers of Men-of-War and Regiments quartered at Sydney were admitted as "Honorary Members" without ballot, but were required to pay the annual subscription. A stamp for the marking of books was procured, and directed to be placed upon the fiftieth, one-hundredth, and each succeeding fiftieth page of each volume. In

later years it was also placed upon the backs of the books. The members

were allowed to take out two volumes at a time. The penalties for not returning books were graduated, according to their sizes. For a folio volume the fine was 3d., and for pamphlets 1d., for every day beyond the regulation time.

The rules, and a list of the first officers and members, were printed. A fac-simile copy of this interesting and unique document is reproduced in Appendix B. The original is in the possession of D. S. Mitchell, Esq., M.A., and is the only copy known to be in existence.

In April, 1826, the first order for books and periodicals was forwarded to London, addressed to the Colonial Agent, Edward Barnard. The list



WM. LITHGOW. Committeeman, 1826–7.

of books ordered is still preserved amongst the Library archives, and is a very interesting document. The great quarterlies have precedence, followed by high-priced standard works on history, theology, biography, science, and travels. As if to grant concessions to the weaker vessels, Scott's novels were added, evidently as an afterthought.

The books, upon arrival, were deposited at the warehouse of one of the founders of the Institution, A. B. Spark, until a suitable house could be found. One of the first steps taken by the Committee was to



A. B. SPARK. Committeeman, 1827–8 & 1834–5.

shelves to this day. Operations were commenced with about 1,000 volumes on 1st December, 1827, in No. 1, Terry's Buildings, Pitt-street. Terry's Buildings consisted of a terrace of five large three-storied houses, erected by Samuel Terry. They stood on the block of land which is now bounded on the northern side by Vickery's Chambers, and on the south side by the offices of Messrs. Richardson & Wrench. In the very early days they were amongst the notable

solicit loans of books from members, with which to make a start. About five hundred volumes were obtained in this way. Some of them were subsequently presented to the Institution, notably those of J. T. Campbell and Archdeacon Scott. Many of these remain on our



NO. I, TERRY'S BUILDINGS, PITT-ST. In which the Library was located from 1827 to 1831.

buildings of Sydney. The house in which the Library was located was the most northern of the terrace. It stood on the site where Messrs. Raine & Horne's offices now are, the present number of which is 86 Pitt-street.

The ground-floor of the building was occupied by the Committee for the management of the Sydney Dispensary, afterwards the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary, now the Sydney Hospital. The Library was on the first floor, and the upper story was occupied by Peter Cooke, who acted in the dual capacity of Librarian and Dispenser at the modest salary of £40 a year. The rent (£,120) was paid in equal proportions by each body. The Library was open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. In July, 1828, an alteration was made, the hours being from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Cooke was succeeded in February, 1829, by Charles Henderson, Clerk Committeeman, 1826-31, 1833-4, & 1836. to the Corporation of Church and School



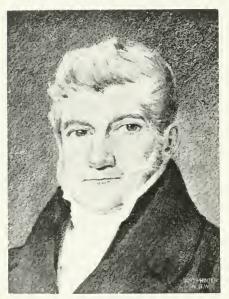
REV. R. HILL.

Estates. He resigned in April of the same year, and was succeeded by George Baxter.

The bulk of the work, during the early years, fell upon De La Condamine, who continued as Honorary Secretary until his departure with his Regiment, (the 57th Foot) in 1831. For several years Messrs. Berry and Wollstonecraft were the Honorary Treasurers, and amongst the most active members of the Committee were Rev. Wm. Cowper and Rev. R. Hill.

At the outset the books were of a very high educational order, what we would call, to-day, standard works for a Reference Library. Before two years had elapsed the inevitable cry for light and popular literature arose. More fiction was required. The books were too grave in character. These complaints, and the fact that the subscriptions were falling off, alarmed the Committee, and the London agent was instructed to pay more attention to writers such as "Bulwer, Dickens, and Lever." In particular, he] was directed to be very careful to include all of Scott's novels, and "any other recent novels which have been reviewed, and approved, by the writers of the Edinburgh or Quarterly Reviews."

One of the first acts of the original Committee was to divide itself into



F. N. ROSSI. Committeeman, 1826 & 1829-30.



GEORGE ALLEN. Committeeman, 1827–9.

sub-Committees: one for the selection and care of the books, another for the proper furnishing and up-keep of the house, and a third for the management of the finances. This sensible plan was not adhered to by later Committees, much to the weakening of the interest of the subscribers and the growth of laxity in the Committee itself.

In 1830, finding the income had dwindled in two years from £400 to £200, the Committee appealed to Governor Darling for assistance. They were particular in emphasizing the fact that the Society ought to be regarded

as a semi-public body, and claimed that they had

. . . laid the foundation of a Public Library, which, at no distant period, may become highly valuable and useful to the Colony.

They asked for allotment, and Museum, then in should be combined Governor Darling he sent the Library and issued the tions, under date

It appearing of the interests of this Public Library should lished on a suitable inhabitants may have ing access to such works as it may not every individual to immediate use, and nature having been



WM. BALCOMBE. Committeeman, 1828.

a grant of a town suggested that the an embryo state, with the Library. was sympathetic; his cheque for £50, following instructoth October, 1831: great importance to community that a

great importance to community that a be permanently estabscale, so that the the means of abtainstandard and other be convenient for purchase for his own an Institution of this already commenced,

and some liberal contributions having been made thereto, but a building being still required, and the means of the Institution being totally inadequate to the purchase

of the ground erection: let and Committee management of the "Australian Library" be select two ground in Hyde as the arrange-



FIRST BOOK-PLATE.

necessary for its the President charged with the affairs of Subscription authorised to allotments of Park as soon ments shall have

been completed for appropriating and disposing of the said ground, it being understood that suitable provision is to be made for a *Museum*, which, as far as regards the collection of animals, birds, &c., has been already commenced, and which it is conceived may be united with great advantage to the Public Library. The above ground to be granted free of quit-rent for ever.

With a view of still further assisting the Institution in question and as a means of evincing the interest which Government takes in its success, it has been deemed proper to place at its disposal two of the building allotments lately laid out above "Rushcutters' Bay"; let the President and the Committee, therefore, be authorised to select two allotments at that place, which, as the Institution will be at liberty to dispose of these allotments. by sale or otherwise, as may be considered more advantageous, are to be chargeable with the same quit-rent as the other allotments in their immediate neighbourhood.

RALPH DARLING.

It will be seen from the tenor and wording of these instructions that the Institution was regarded at the time as of the nature of a Public Library.

The Committee lost no time in acting upon the Governor's minute. Two allotments were selected in Hyde Park, the combined area being 300



F. A. HELY. Hon. Secretary, 1831-2.

feet by 260 feet. I have been able to locate the exact site by means of an old map of Hyde Park, which has been preserved in the Lands Department, and was evidently prepared by Sir Thomas Mitchell for the guidance of Governor Darling, whose intention it was to build upon the Park lying north of Park-street. This plan shows Market-street continued in an easterly direction to St. Mary's Cathedral, and Macquarie-street continued in a southerly line beyond Park-street. The allotments selected by the Committee were situated at the centre of the rectangle formed by College-street, Parkstreet, Elizabeth-street, and the continuation of Market-street.

The two allotments "above Rush-

cutters' Bay" were each four acres in extent, with a total frontage of 800 feet to the eastern side of the Old South Head Road, directly opposite the present entrance gates to the Victoria Barracks.

Some years elapsed before Darling's orders were acted upon. In 1834 Governor Bourke (who succeeded him) confirmed the grants of allotments at Rushcutters' Bay; but substituted two small blocks in Bridge-street for

the building sites in Hyde Park. These the Society refused to recognise as a fair exchange, allegingthat they were both insufficient and unsuitable. Ultimately, they agreed to accept, in lieu thereof, agrant of the



THE GENERAL POST OFFICE. In which the Library was located from 1831–6.

land on which the Public Library now stands, at the corner of Bent-street and Macquarie-street. Seven years elapsed before the choice was endorsed by a subsequent Committee, and ratified by the Governor. This block then formed a part of the Government Domain. It was at the back of the old Government House, which then stood at the present intersection of Bridge and Phillip-streets. In fact, the allotment is described in the old papers as being "near the kitchen garden."

During the years occupied in these negotiations, the Library had a rather precarious existence. In February, 1831, F. A. Hely, Superintendent of Convicts, succeeded Lieut. De La Condamine, as Honorary Secretary. In December, 1831, the books were removed from Pitt-street to rooms at the old Post Office in George-street. This building was situated

on the site of the present Post Office, and up till the year 1830 had been the Sydney Police Office. The illustration is from an old engraving: the original plans and elevation are still preserved in the office of the Government Architect. In the following month, Thomas Connolly was appointed Librarian, in succession to George Baxter. In the latter part of the year 1831, Richardson, bookseller, of Cornhill, London, was appointed agent to the Library; his terms being one-half the ordinary trade discount.

In January, 1833, Lieut.-Col. Thomas Shadforth succeeded F. A. Hely as Honorary Secretary. In 1834, the library was incor-



LIEUT.-COL. SHADFORTH. Hon. Secretary, 1833–45.

porated by Act of Council (5 George IV), and Dr. James Mitchell, Thomas Walker, and W. T. Cape were appointed trustees of the property. It is noteworthy that in the title of the Act, the words "Public Library" were used. In this year (1834), the first attempt at a classification of the books was made, and it was decided to divide them as follows:—

- 1. Agriculture and Horticulture.
- 2. Antiquities.
- 3. Architecture.
- 4. Chemistry.
- 5. Classics.
- 6. Commerce.
- 7. Dramatic Works.
- 8. Essays.
- 9. Geography.
- 10. History and Biography.
- 11. Jurisprudence.
- 12. Mathematics, Astronomy, &c.



SEAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY.

- 13. Medicine, Anatomy, and Surgery.
- 14. Mechanical Arts.
- 15. Miscellaneous Works.
- 16. Natural History.
- 17. Novels and Romances.
- 18. Philology.
- 19. Philosophy.
- 20. Poetry.
- 21. Political Economy.
- 22. Reviews, Magazines, and other Periodicals.
- 23. Sermons and Theological Works.
- 24. Voyages and Travels.

The first printed catalogue I can discover, is dated January, 1828. I do not think there was an earlier one. It contains the by-laws and a list



JUDGE THERRY. Committeeman, 1831–2, 1834–7, & 1839–40.

of the officers and members. It would be obviously absurd to attempt to draw any comparison between this catalogue and one issued by a modern Library; in its time it was no doubt regarded as a very creditable piece of work. Later catalogues I have seen are those for the years 1834 and 1836. One glance at these old catalogues makes it evident that the titles of the books then performed their original and intended function. For cataloguing purposes, a book was then known and described exclusively by its title. The author was disregarded entirely, unless his name happened to stand first in the title, e.g., The Voyages of Captain Cook are entered under "Voyages"—not under "Cook."

Lang's "History of New South Wales" is given under "History"—there is no entry under either "Lang" or "New South Wales." Sir Walter Scott's

novels are entered under "Sir"—not under "Scott." In reality, it is an alphabetically arranged inventory, without location numbers or distinguishing classification marks, of the abbreviated titles by which the books were familiarly known to the Librarian—in other words, the germ of the modern dictionary catalogue.

In July, 1835, Governor Bourke, in answer to a request for the conveyance of the promised deed of grant, suggested that the Government



JAMES LAIDLEY. Vice-President, 1834–5.



REV. R. MANSFIELD. Committeeman, 1836-7 & 1843-64.

should undertake the crection of a building. Without waiting for the consent of the Society, he wrote to the Secretary of State in the following terms:—

Government House.

My Lord,

Sydney, August 7, 1835.

In applying to your Lordship for permission to propose to the Council of this Colony the appropriation of money for the erection of a building to serve as a Library and Museum, and to be placed in connexion with the Sydney Botanical

Gardens, I have the great advantage of addressing l'a Minister who being himself a member of several learned societies is fully able to appreciate the value of Institutions formed for the promotion of Literature and Science. I may, therefore, I trust, anticipate a



RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE, In which the Library was located from 1836–40.



THOMAS WALKER.
Committeeman, 1834-8.

favourable reply to the proposal I have now the honour to submit to Your Lordship.

There has been for some time established in Sydney a subscription Library, the members of which have lately become a joint stock company under the provisions of an Act of the Governor and Council. To this Act I beg leave to refer your Lordship for the Regulations by which the Society is governed.

It has hitherto been maintained entirely by private funds. On the retirement of my predecessor from this Government he directed that it should receive two small allotments of ground in the suburb of Sydneyand a building allotment within the town: the former to be sold to procure some portion of the funds required to erect a building on the latter, with the condition that the building should contain rooms for the Colonial Museum for which

collections on a small scale have been making for a few years past. This arrangement was subsequently approved by the Secretary of State.

It has been carried into effect so far as to give possession to the Society of the two suburb allotments, but I would beg leave to submit a different arrangement for the building. I apprehend some difficulty in procuring suitable rooms for the Museum in the rooms which the funds of the Society will enable them to erect, and it would be a novel and perhaps an imprudent measure to place the public property in a house over which the Government would have no other control than as a kind of a lessee of a part of it. I consider, therefore, it would be more advisable to build a house for a Library and Museum, and, cancelling the promise of a building allotment to the Society, to allow them to place their books in the Library. and have the use and occupation of the rooms composing it, with a condition that they shall, if



G. K. HOLDEN. Committeeman, 1839 40, 1846-7, 1856, & 1863-5.

required by a year's notice, vacate the rooms, in which case they should receive a building allotment in Sydney, or the value of one at this day which may be estimated at £350.*

By the proposed arrangement I might hope to establish at once a convenient Institution for the study of Natural History and to lay the foundation of a Public Library.

The cost of a suitable building will not exceed £4,000, the appropriation of which sum I beg permission to propose to the Council for this object.

RICHARD BOURKE.

*Marginal note in original.—This is reported by Mr. Macpherson to be the price at which all except one of the allotments in Bridge-street recently sold.

(William Macpherson was Collector of Internal Revenue.)



JOHN FAIRFAX. Librarian, 1839–41. Committeeman, 1862–4.

In 1836, a valuation was made of the property of the Society. The books (2,600 volumes) were valued at £1,040, and the furniture at £88 15s.



LIEUT.-COL. BARNEY. Committeeman, 1841-2.

No estimate was made of the value of land. During May of this year, the Library was moved from the old Post Office to the house in Bridge-street, then recently vacated by the Chief Justice. This building stood on the site of the present offices of the Department of Lands, at the corner of Bridge and Gresham streets. The illustration on page 13 shows the building as it was when occupied by the Chief Justice. It is taken from a view by J. Carmichael and from old plans in the Government Architect's Department. Additions, which entirely altered the appearance of the building, were made in 1854, and again in 1867, for

pose of accommodating the rapidly in-

creasing staff of the Surveyor-General.

On the Estimates for the year 1838, an amount of £4,000 was voted for building a Public Library and Museum. In July of that year the Society urged the Colonial Secretary to commence operations. Orders were in consequence issued to the Colonial Architect, Mr. M. W. Lewis, to confer with the Committee. with a view to the preparation of plans and specifications. At the last minute a hitch occurred. The Government required some assurance that the public would have free access to the books. The Committee, on the other hand,



JUDGE BURTON. Vice-President, 1842-4

clung to their proprietary rights; if the Institution were to be transformed into a Public Library, they not unnaturally required some equivalent for the



ST. JAMES'S PARSONAGE. In which the Library was located from 1840-3.

room should be appropriated for the use of the general public (or non-subscribers), who would be provided with the books of the Library for perusal and reference, but not for loan, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; access to be by ticket, signed by a member of the Committee, and renewed every three months; the expense of an extra Library Attendant thus incurred, to be defrayed by the Government. The Governor would not agree to this proposal, and the Committee, on being informed thereof, wrote to Sir George Gipps as follows:—

The Committee having again maturely considered the subject, regret that, consistently with

money(probably about £ 3, 0 0 0) which had been expended in books, fittings, and furniture.

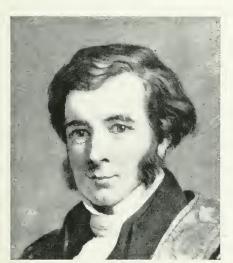
A resolution was finally passed by the Committee, on 25th October, 1838, to the effect that a special



CANON ALLWOOD. Committeeman, 1842 & 1856-65.



ALEXR. MCLEAY. President, 1826–48.



DR. C. NICHOLSON.
Committeeman, 1838–47. Vice-President, 1848–53. President, 1854–5.



E. DEAS THOMSON. Committeeman, 1830-1. President, 1849-53.



DR. J. MITCHELL. Committeeman, 1832–53. Vice-President, 1854–5. President, 1856–69.

PRESIDENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY AND THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

their duty, they cannot meet His Excellency's views by recommending any further deviation from the principles on which this Institution was founded than what they proposed in their resolution of 25th October, 1838: but they confidently hope that



DR. LANG. Committeeman, 1826-7, 1859-60, & 1863-6. Trustee, 1870-8.

Gipps's reply is not available, but he enclosed Sir Richard Bourke's despatch of 7th August, 1835, quoted above, in proof that the Government was desirous of helping the Society, and sent also a copy of an approving reply from Lord Glenelg. Gipps probably hinted that they were occupying a Government building rent-free, and were being rather

on further consideration of these principles. of the peculiar circumstances of the Colony, and of the usages in the mother country with respect to the admission to Public Libraries, His Excellency will be satisfied with the arrangement which has been already proposed, and the more especially as His Excellency is aware that no strangers are admitted without tickets to the Library of another Colonial Institution which is chiefly supported at the expense of the Public Funds of the Colony*.



JUDGE A'BECKETT. Committeeman, 1838-9.

^{*}The allusion no doubt is to the Sydney School of Arts, towards the support of which the sum of f_{200} per annum was paid by Government.

generously treated; the reply of the Society was not calculated to pacify officialdom. They asked:—

- That they should not be deprived of any privilege or benefit granted or promised by Governor Darling.
- 2. If the rooms in the old Chief Justice's house, of which they had been in permissive occupancy, were to be taken from them, they should be given due notice, and should receive from Government an eligible building allotment in the town, or a sum of money sufficient to purchase such an allotment on which "an edifice becoming the nature of the Institution, and which may be a credit to the Colony and an honor to the Government, could be erected."



P. J. ELLIOTT. Librarian, 1841–65.



EDYE MANNING. Committeeman, 1838-9.

While taking this stand, the Committee urged the Government not to stop the preparations for the erection of a Library and Museum, complaining in the same letter that they were being greatly inconvenienced by insufficient accommodation. A formal reply, to the effect that the Colonial Architect had been directed to prepare plans and estimates, closed the correspondence; but the Committee did not let any opportunity pass of reminding the Government that they expected Darling's promise of a town grant to be made good, or a money equivalent paid.

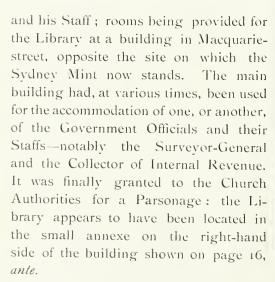
In January, 1839, Librarian Connolly resigned. The position was advertised in the Sydney papers, and John Fairfax appointed on 1st April.



J. H. PLUNKETT.
Committeeman, 1837 and 1865.

In November, of the same year, he received a gratuity for the way in which he had compiled the Library Catalogue, and, at the same time, a promise of an increase of salary, but the prospects were not alluring enough. After two years' service John Fairfax resigned, and was succeeded in March, 1841, by P. J. Elliott.

In May, 1840, the allotments above Rushcutters' Bay were sold for $\mathcal{L}_{3,3}$ 84, and, in the same month, the premises in Bridge-street, occupied by the Library and Museum, were ordered to be vacated to accommodate the Surveyor-General





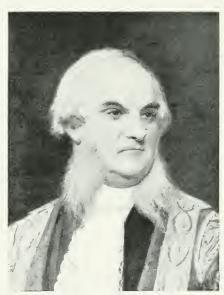
REV. DR. ULLATHORNE. Committeeman, 1839-40.

Some of the entries in the Committee's Minute Book are amusing when read in the light of present-day knowledge; *c.g.*, we find in October, 1841, one member of the Committee moving that "the work entitled 'Jack Sheppard' be ejected," and at the same meeting it was resolved "that three copies of a proposed work entitled 'Stolen Moments,' to be published in the Colony, wrote (*sic*) by Henry Parkes, be subscribed for."

The Governor having offered two sites to the Committee, one "opposite the residence of Mr. Edye Manning," the other "opposite the



DR. G. BENNETT. Committeeman, 1846-53.



F. L. S. MEREWETHER. Committeeman, 1848-9.

Club House," it was decided in May, 1841, to accept the former and start operations.

Upon this decision being made known, several plans were submitted by officials and private architects. In nearly every case they were on by far too ambitious a scale. Finally, in November, 1842, Lieutenant-Colonel Barney submitted a scheme for a building to cost £10,000.

This was adopted on the understanding that only a part of the erection (to cost £5,000) should be immediately undertaken. Within three weeks, tenders were called for, and accepted, and an architect, Mr. Henry Ginn, appointed.



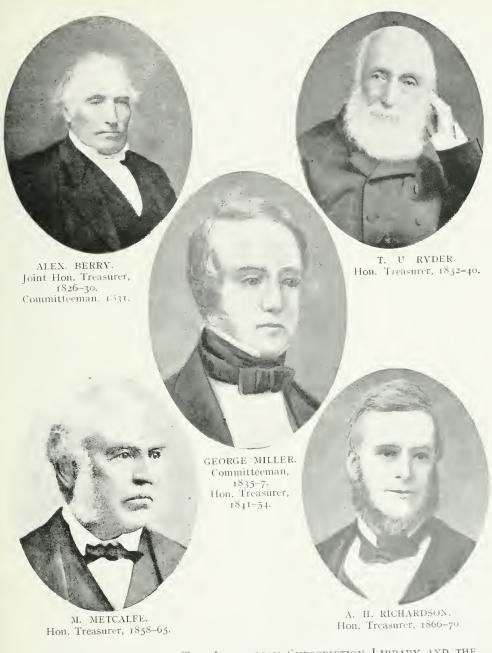
G. A. LLOYD. Committeeman, 1870.



CHARLES COWPER. Committeeman, 1850-5.

Operations on the land at the corner of Bent and Macquarie streets were at once commenced, and, early in February, 1843, the work was sufficiently advanced to permit of the formal ceremony of laying the foundation stone. Sir George Gipps was asked to officiate; but for some reason—now unknown—he informed the Committee that he "declined presiding at the ceremony." The President, Alexander McLeay, was thereupon selected, and a Committee, consisting of Dr. C. Nicholson (Chairman), Dr. Ross, Dr. A. M. A'Beckett, and W. T. Cape, was formed to make the necessary arrangements for duly celebrating the event.

The ceremony was performed on 14th February, 1843. The speeches of Dr. Nicholson and Alexander McLeay were reported at length in the *Sydney*



Honorary Treasurers—The Australian Subscription Library and the Australian Library and Literary Institution.



Morning Herald of 15th February, 1843. A brass plate was embedded in the foundation stone containing the following inscription:—

LAPIDEM. PRIMARIUM.

ÆDIFICH.

DICATI. IN. USUM.

BIBLIOTHECÆ, COLLATICIÆ, AUSTRALIENSIS.

A. RADULPHO. DARLING. EQ. ORD. GUELPH. GR.

ANN. SAL. MDCCCXXVI. INSTITUTÆ.

CONJECIT.

ALEXANDER, MACLEAY, SOCIET, REGLÆ, SOC. PRIMUS, ET, UNICUS, ADHUC, PRÆSES.

SEXTUM. JAM. ANNUM. REGNANTE. VICTORIA. Q.D.S.P.

XVI. CAL. MART. ANN. SAL. MDCCCXLIII.

CURANTIBUS.

GEORGIO, GIPPS, EQ. AUR. COL. PRÆF. PATRONO.

GUL. GRANT. BROUGHTON. D.D. AUSTRAL. EPISC. VICE. PATRONO.

ALEX. MACLEAY. SOCIET. REGLÆ. SOC. PRÆSIDE.

GUL. WESTBROOKE, BURTON, FOR, REG. PRÆT. VICE, PRÆSIDE.

ART, M. A'BECKETT.

RAD, MANSFIELD, CLER.

JOHAN. STIRLING.

GUL. B. CLARKE. CLER. A.M.

CAROL. NICHOLSON. M.D. S.C.S. GUL. T. CAPE.

JOHAN. L. INNES

ROB. ROSS. CLER. M.D.

[ACOBO. MITCHELL.

GUL. J. DUMARESQ.

TH. SHADFORTH. LEG. TR. A. SEC.

GEOR, MILLER, ÆR, COLL, CUSTOD,

PHIL. J. ELLIOTT. A. BIBLIOTHECA.

HENRIC. GINN. ARCHITECTO.

In a cavity in the foundation stone a glass bottle was deposited, containing a number of coins, and a copy on parchment of the Latin inscription.

The proceedings were followed by a luncheon, at which the usual loyal toasts and that of "Prosperity to the Australian Subscription Library" were proposed by the President.

About this time the Committee were notified by the Government that the rooms occupied by them near the corner of King and Macquarie streets, were required for official purposes, and as



REV. W. B. CLARKE. Committeeman, 1843-4, 1847-51, & 1854-5. Vice-President, 1856-66, Trustee, 1870-8,



SIR THOMAS MITCHELL. Committeeman, 1832-3. Vice-President, 1845-7.

there were no other available premises belonging to the Government, it became necessary to rent rooms temporarily. On 1st April, 1843, the Library was removed (pending completion of the building) to a house in Macquarie-place, rented from Mrs. Reibey, for which £300 a year was paid. This was a serious drain on the precarious income, and the next year saw them pinched for money. In June, 1844, they wrote to the London agent to cut

his monthly shipment down to £5 worth of new books and to send no more works of fiction.

This was a year of dissension. Alarmed by the increasing liabilities and the decreasing membership, a party led by the Rev. Dr. Lang attacked the Committee. A special meeting was held on 22nd February, 1844, Alexander McLeay in the chair. Resolutions severely censuring the Com-



CHARLES CAMPBELL. Committeeman, 1841. Deputy Chairman, 1869. Chairman, 1870.



A. M. A'BECKETT. Committeeman, 1842–5 and 1867–9. Deputy Chairman, 1870.

mittee were moved by Dr. Lang; but he was hopelessly in the minority. *Inter alia* it was proposed to abolish the system of balloting for members and to reduce the subscription to \mathcal{L}_{I} per annum. Amongst the members who supported the Committee were Dr. Bland, Judge Therry, Bishop Broughton, Richard Windeyer, James Macarthur, and Robert Lowe.

Lang endeavoured to ventilate the matter in the Legislative Council, and on 17th May, 1844, asked a series of questions, without, however,

receiving much satisfaction or, apparently, any sympathy. Most of the reforms advocated by him were, however, subsequently adopted.



R. WINDEYER. Committeeman, 1845-6.

constant state of poverty, but with a commodious and handsome home on one of the finest sites in Sydney. For many years it attracted to its Reading Room and Lecture Hall the culture and learning of Sydney, and became the recognised meeting-place and home of literary and scientific bodies. Numbering amongst its prominent members many men of remarkable mental calibre and earnestness, it became a much more powerful educational factor

In November, 1845, the long cherished object of the Society was achieved, and the Library boasted a building which it could call its own, and which had been specially designed to suit the purpose for which it was to be used. For about twenty years they had been forced to make shift in dwelling-houses or spare rooms in Government Offices. During that period the funds had been sufficient, but the accommodation unsuitable and often inadequate. The ensuing twenty-five years found them in an almost



S. A. DONALDSON. Committeeman, 1850-1.

than the limited member roll would suggest. The exclusiveness, to which we can trace the ultimate reverses of the Society, was characteristic of the

time and was not more peculiar to Sydney and its Library than to other places and similar bodies.

At a General Meeting held on 9th July, 1846, it was resolved that ladies should be eligible for election as subscribers. This resolution may have been passed in a formal way to allay the scruples of sticklers for constitutional propriety; or it may mark the failure of an attempt to exclude women, for in the old lists of members and subscribers, published in the thirties, the names of several married women are frequently to be found.

In the year 1847 Governor Fitzroy granted to the Society an additional block of land on the



H. H. BROWNE. Committeeman, 1852–61.

northern side of the Library, having a frontage of 30 feet to Macquarie-street.



AUSTRALIAN SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY. 1853.

Special orders were sent to the London agent about this time to send regularly, as published, the works of Dickens, Bulwer, Trollope, Disraeli, Warren, Lever, and Maxwell.

On the 19th June, 1848, Alexander McLeay died. He had filled the president's chair, uninterruptedly, from the date of the foundation of the Society, and during the entire period his active interest had never flagged

Mr. Deas Thomson, who had succeeded McLeay as Colonial Secretary in 1837, was elected his successor as President on 11th January, 1849



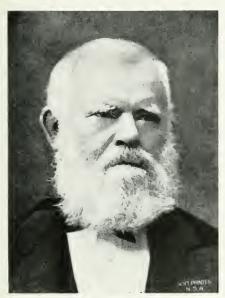
CAPT. P. P. KING. Committeeman, 1851-2.



REV. DR. WOOLLEY. Committeeman, 1855-7.

In 1851 the funds were very low, and the agent was instructed to send out nothing but periodicals, public documents, and the proceedings of learned Societies. An application by the Librarian for increases in the salaries of himself and his assistant, occasioned by the high prices of provisions, was refused. A few months afterwards, however, the salary of the Assistant was raised to £1 a week, and at the same meeting the

Committee, with a fine disregard of the inevitable day of reckoning, ordered the Treasurer to apply to the Bank for an overdraft of £1,000.



THOMAS HOLT.
Committeeman, 1855 & 1861-4.

In January, 1852, the Treasurer reported that he had borrowed £300 to pay off loans amounting to £290. Notwithstanding the fact that they were heavily in debt, the Librarian's salary was increased this year from £155 to £205; at the same time the system of admission by ballot was discontinued, the nomination of three proprietors being sufficient for membership.

In 1853 it was decided to endeavour to stave off financial difficulties by procuring from Government a cash allowance in consideration of the benefit which the Institution conferred on the public from an educational point of view. The Government, however, refused, and

the alternative of increasing the membership by widening the basis of admission was resorted to.

With this object in view, an Act of Council was passed, by which the Library was formed into a proprietary corporation of 1,000 shares of £25 each, entailing an annual subscription of £1 per share. The name was changed from "The Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room" to "The Australian Library and Literary Institution." Shareholders were entitled to a separate frank or token for each share held. These were transferable, and on presentation admitted the



T. W. SMITH. Committeeman. 1856.

bearer to the Reading Room, the object being to afford access to the public for purposes of reference and to encourage the impression that



SEAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.

the Institution was in the nature of a Public Library. A new stamp for the books and a new seal were at the same time adopted. The first meeting of the Society, after the passing of the Act, was held on 25th January, 1854. Sir Charles Nicholson was elected President; Dr. James Mitchell, Vice-President; George Miller, Honorary Treasurer; and Rev. Dr. Ross, Honorary Secretary.

The years 1854, 1855, and 1856, were uneventful. There were not wanting, however, indications of waning interest on the part of the shareholders; and the Institu-

tion, for the want of regular and sufficient funds, began to suffer, both in character and usefulness.

In 1856 Dr. James Mitchell was elected President in succession to Sir Charles Nicholson. For fifteen years Dr. Mitchell presided over the affairs of the Library; during the whole of this period he continued to take an active, personal interest in the Institution. He was a member of nearly every Committee from 1832 to 1869. He died on 1st

February, 1869, shortly before the Library was taken over by the Government. D. S. Mitchell, Esq., M.A., founder of the Mitchell Library, is his son.

In 1857 the Government placed in the Library the English Patent Law Commissioners' Publications (about 200 volumes); although there is nothing to



show that the general public could demand free access to these records, yet the fact of such papers being filed at the Library is an indication that the Institution was regarded as something more than a mere private Subscription Library. In 1858 a new contract was entered into with the Library's London

agent—Richardson, of Cornhill—by which discounts, off London publishing prices, of 16½ per cent. on new books, and 8½ per cent. on periodicals, were allowed.

During the years 1858 and 1859 it became evident that the formation of the Society into a legal body-corporate, had not been a success. Several meetings wereheld, during this period, to consider the best means of improving the financial condition of the Institution. The Government was again approached, but in vain. A proposal to sell the building, land and property, and make a fresh start on a smaller scale, was negatived by the shareholders.



R. A. HUNT. Committeeman, 1859-61.



N. D. STENHOUSE. Committeeman, 1857, Trustee, 1870-3.

Finally, it was decided in 1859 to reduce the expenditure, sublet part of the building, and enlarge the main hall so that it would be suitable for concerts, public meetings, and other gatherings. With this object in view a sum of £2,200 was procured on mortgage from the Savings Bank.

Nine months' experience showed that the expectations of the Committee were ill-founded. There was very little demand for the hall or lecture room,



REV. DR. ROSS.



W. T. CAPE. Committeeman, 1833-54, and 1857. Hon. Secretary, 1858-60.



R. A. A. MOREHEAD. Hon. Treasurer, 1855-8. Committeeman, 1860. Hon. Secretary, 1861-3.



PROFESSOR SMITH. Committeeman, 1854–60. Hon. Secretary, 1864–5.

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE AUSTRALIAN



C. KEMP.
Committeeman, 1848–9 and 1859–62.
Hon. Secretary, 1855.



E. DAINTREY. Committeeman, 1853–5, 1858–9, and 1861–4. Hon. Secretary, 1856–7.



M. FITZPATRICK. Hon. Secretary, 1858. Committeeman, 1859.

LIBRARY AND LITERARY INSTITUTION.



WM. FORDE. Hon. Secretary, 1866–70.

and it became imperative to reduce the cost of management and curtail the purchases of books. The charges for interest on loans were slowly but surely throttling the Institution. Towards the end of 1859 Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Cowper, then Premier, was waited upon by the Committee, and urged to buy the whole property at £15,000, and turn it into a Public Library. At this time the books were estimated to number about 16,000, and were valued at 5s. each (£4,000). The land, buildings, and fittings were valued at £14,000.

The Premier, who for six years (1850-5) had been a member of the Committee of the Library, appears to have been inclined to accept the offer,



CAPT. E. WARD. Committeeman, 1859-64.

but before negotiations could becompleted the Ministry went out of office, and nothing further was done.

On the 27th November, 1861, a special general meeting of the Institution was



R. JONES. Committeeman, 1862–66.

called by the Committee, to consider what steps should be taken to place the finances on a more satisfactory footing. It was decided to place the real property on the market. To this end, advertisements calling for tenders for the purchase of the land and building, appeared in the public press for several weeks, but no offer of any sort was received. Even the Government, when asked, refused, in the first instance, to make an offer; but, in April, 1862, the Secretary for Works (W. M. Arnold), being desirous of

securing the premises for Government offices, wrote asking if the Committee would entertain an offer of £6,000 for the building and land.

The Committee replied that they would be willing to submit to the general body of shareholders an offer of £8,000. Ultimately it was agreed to refer the question of price to arbitrators. This was done, and the value assessed by them at £7,250. The shareholders, although they had agreed to the appointment of arbitrators, when called upon to ratify the sale, refused, and instructed the Committee to try and sell the books and fittings, as well as the building and land, to the Govern-



W. R. PIDDINGTON. Committeeman, 1865–7 & 1869–70.

SOUTPRINTER

R. JOHNSON. Committeeman, 1866.

ment. The price asked was £ 10,000.

Before accepting this offer, the Ministry asked for the approval of Parliament. On the 30th October, 1862, Charles Cowper moved in the Legislative Assembly, "that the offer of the Committee of Management of the Australian Subscription Library to sell the property of that Institutian, consisting of buildings and books, for the sum of £10,000, ought, in the opinion of this House, to be accepted."

The motion was discussed at length and with some feeling. One member openly attributed the failure of the Institution to its exclusiveness; the *bona*

fides of several members who were shareholders was challenged; these, although they had spoken in support of the proposal, refrained from voting, and in consequence the resolution was defeated by one vote. It is noticeable that, during the whole of the negotiations, it was generally admitted that the Government were in duty bound to establish a Free Public Library; in fact, as early as January, 1862, the Legislative Assembly voted £25,000 for that purpose.

Foiled in their endeavours to sell at a profit, the shareholders improvidently staved off the evil day by raising another £1,000 on mortgage, to meet pressing demands. More than half of this sum went, at once, to pay arrears due to the



D. R. HAWLEY. Librarian, 1865-9.

London bookseller. These difficulties did not, however, prevent the Committee from voting \pounds to to illuminate the Library, in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

In September, 1863, the shareholders appear to have recognised the hopelessness of persevering in the endeavour to conduct the affairs of the Library on business lines, and fell in, at once, with a suggestion of the Librarian (P. J. Elliott), that he should pay them an annual rental and be allowed to conduct the Library as if it were his private business.

The terms of this agreement were, that Elliott was to pay a rental of £300 per annum, terminable by six months' notice on either side. The proprietors and shareholders were to pay their annual subscriptions (£2 and £1 respectively) to Elliott, and the Society was to guarantee him an initial

cash credit of £500, to enable him to purchase books, &c. Minor details in regard to the hours of opening and the preservation of the buildings and property were arranged, and the Library was opened under the new system on 1st January, 1864.

Before twelve months had elapsed it became evident that the new scheme was doomed to failure, and in June, 1865, Elliott gave six months' notice of his intension to terminate the lease. He was succeeded as Librarian by D. R. Hawley on 28th December, 1865.

The hopelessness of the situation, financially, can be gathered from the following statement made by the Hon. Treasurer at a General Meeting on 1st November, 1865. The debts amounted to about £4,800; the income from subscriptions, rent, &c., was £450; the cost of maintenance (including interest) was £900.

Several meetings of the shareholders and proprietors were held, in November and December, 1865, to decide upon the course to be pursued. Ultimately it was decided to re-form the Company, writing down the shares from 1,000 at £25 to 2,000 at £5. Holders of one share in the old Company, to have four in the new. Holders of two or more shares, in the new



E. C. WEEKES. Committeeman, 1866. Deputy-Chairman, 1867–8.

Company, were to be allowed additional privileges, such as the right to introduce strangers, and to borrow increased numbers of books. A private Act was passed in April, 1866, and a start made immediately under the new system. The name "Australian Library and Literary Institute" was retained.

The subscribers, at this time, numbered less than 300; and a special stock-taking showed that the volumes, on the shelves, numbered 15,110. The estimate of 16,000 in 1850 must, therefore, have been excessive,

At the outset, it appeared as if a sufficient number of new subscribers would be attracted; but, in a very short time, the inadequacy of the member roll became evident. The interest on loans was permitted to fall in arrears; the booksellers' bills were allowed to accumulate; in fact, the subscriptions were not much more than sufficient to pay salaries.

According to a statement made by the Committee in January, 1868, there were at that time 327 shareholders; the indebtedness had increased to £4.933, of which nearly £300 was for accrued interest. Twelve months later the number of shareholders had increased to 344; nearly a quarter of them were, however, in arrears with their subscriptions. Less than £50 had been spent during the year in books; but still the debt had mounted to £5,139, inclusive of £519 arrears of interest.

The bank, at this stage, stepped in with threats of foreclosure; and frantic but fruitless efforts were made to raise more money by mortgage. Finally, in February, 1869, the shareholders decided to offer the entire



WISE-BEQUEST BOOK STAMP.



FIRST BOOK STAMP. PUBLIC LIBRARY.

property to the Government for £8,000; and, in case of refusal, to sell it by public auction. On the 12th March, 1869, the Legislative Assembly, on the motion of Dr. Lang, affirmed, by twenty-one votes to nine, the desirableness of the Government purchasing the books, building and land, and establishing a Free Public Library. Nothing, however, resulted, and in May following, the property was placed in the auctioneer's hands. The building, however, was obviously unsuitable for either business or residential purposes, and failed to elicit a reasonable bid.

This was the position of affairs in September, 1869, when the Premier and Colonial Secretary, Mr. (afterwards Sir) John Robertson, agreed, on



JAMES NORTON, LL.D.

Trustee, 1878–1906. President, 1890–1906.



behalf of the Government, to purchase the books for £1,500 and the building for £3,600. Practically the whole of this sum was absorbed in meeting the obligations of the Society, and the shareholders received absolutely nothing.

The Government in deciding to purchase was, no doubt, influenced by the fact that the executors of the will of Judge Wise had presented to the



JUDGE WISE.

Government his Library of Australian books, pamphlets, and newspapers, in trust, to be placed in a Free Public Library, as soon as one should be established. The collection had been handed over, and each book marked with a distinguishing stamp, in the year 1865, and had remained for five years in the custody of the Trustees of the Australian Museum, pending the provision of a proper home. It was an extremely valuable acquisition to the Library, for it remedied, immediately, a very noticeable weakness, viz., the almost total absence of Australian books and newspapers.

The explanation of this neglect of locally-produced literature is obvious. The Australian Subscription Library was founded and maintained ostensibly, and almost exclusively, for the purchase of high-class English books and periodicals, which but few individuals could afford to buy, or otherwise have access to. The productions of the local press, on the other hand, were neither extensive, expensive, nor difficult to obtain. For this reason they were

neglected, and the Committee devoted all their funds to the purchase and preservation of the masterpieces of English literature. So entirely had this

very essential branch of a Public Reference Library been neglected, that it has been one of the most difficult tasks of later-day librarians to make good the deficiency. The possession of the unrivalled Mitchell collection of Australiana will, however, put an end to our troubles in this direction, and place the Public Library of New South Wales among the noted national collections of the world.

On 30th September, 1869, the Institution was re-opened as the "Free Public Library of Sydney," with Robert Cooper Walker as Librarian and D. R. Hawley and E. O'Brien as assistants. About six months afterwards, the following Board of Trustees was appointed, viz.:—



G. EAGAR. Committeeman, 1866.

Professor Badham (*President*). Rev. W. B. Clarke. Rev. Dr. Lang. Sir William Macarthur. Mr. W. B. Dalley.

Mr. W. S. McLeay. Mr. W. A. Duncan. Mr. Robert Owen. Mr. N. D. Stenhouse. Professor Stephens.

Including new purchases and the books comprised in the Wise bequest (about 6,000 volumes in all), the Library commenced operations with about 20,000 volumes. At the outset, the Trustees declared that their main policy would be "to encourage the attendance and minister to the convenience of earnest students seeking intellectual improvement," and, lest the Institution should be used for less worthy purposes, they removed from the shelves a large number of works of an ephemeral character (including about 2,000 volumes of fiction) as being likely to act as a lure to the idle and frivolous.



ROBERT COOPER WALKER.
Librarian, 1869-93. Trustee, 1893-7.



The yearly attendance at the outset was about 60,000, and the expenditure about £3,000. The Library was kept open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m., and books were not permitted to be removed from the reading rooms.

One of the first acts of the Librarian was to re-arrange the books into the following classes:—

		Volumes.			
Natural Philosophy, Science, and the Arts		1,922			
History, Chronology, Antiquities, and Mythology		1,698			
Biography		1,411			
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Topography		2,027			
Law, Politics, Commerce, Statistics, &c		1,296			
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy,	and				
Education		1,018			
Poetry and Drama		510			
Miscellaneous Literature, including Collected Works					
Encyclopædias, Dictionaries, and other Work	s of				
Reference		1,500			
Prose Fiction		1,353			
Periodical Literature and Newspapers, &c		3,093			
Specifications of Patents		2,501			
Total		20.277			



A. DICK. Committeeman, 1867.

A rough list of short titles was hurriedly printed in October, 1869. This was followed, in 1872, by a much improved catalogue of 384 pages, containing a list of titles, arranged alphabetically under authors.

In 1876 a more ambitious scheme was undertaken. It comprised a general author catalogue; a catalogue of pamphlets; an alphabetical list or inventory of the titles of all the books in each of the classes; and a rough subject-index; in all about 990 pages. This appeared in 1878, and was,

for many years, the model on which the catalogues were moulded.

In their first annual report the Trustees stated that the Library was badly housed, and called the attention of the Government to the fact that a larger and better appointed building was urgently required. The complaint was reiterated in succeeding reports, without result. During the first fifteen years the hopes of the Trustees were frequently raised by the preparation of



ANDREW GARRAN. Committeeman, 1869–70.



F. CHAPMAN. Committeeman, 1869–70.

plans which were *never* acted upon; the selection of sites which were *never* built upon; and the voting of moneys which they were *never* allowed to spend.

Despairing of being able to obtain a new building, the Trustees, in 1884, consented to a make-shift in the shape of an addition to the old one; and in 1885-6 a new wing, facing Bent-street, was added, at a cost of £14,690. This extension rendered necessary the vacation of the Librarian's quarters, to make accommodation for whom the house, in Macquarie-street adjoining the Library was purchased in July, 1884.

Immediately the Bent-street wing was completed, it was discovered that the walls of the old building, facing Macquarie-street, were unsafe, and would have to be replaced. Advantage was taken of this, to extend and re-build the whole of the Macquarie-street wing; and to make it uniform in design with the Bent-street additions. This was not completed until 1889, the cost being £12,850.

Unfortunately the main consideration in deciding on the designs of the new wings, particularly the Macquarie-street one, had been that the building was intended to be converted into Government offices as soon as a new Library could be erected. The consequence has been that for seventeen years the Institution has remained in a building, not only totally inadequate in the matter of space and accommodation, but also quite unsuited, structurally, for the purposes for which it has been used. It is confidently expected, however, that the end of our troubles is in sight; and that, when the Mitchell Wing is finished, the remainder of the State Library will be commenced without any break in the operations.





OLD BOOK STAMPS. 1870-80.

For the first few years, new books were purchased at the rate of about 1,500 volumes annually. In later years (subsequent to 1887) the yearly accessions ran to from about 3,000 to 5,000 volumes. At the present time the Reference Library contains about 140,000 volumes, the Lending Branch 29,000 volumes, and the stock, from which country libraries are supplied, about 6,000 volumes—in all about 175,000 volumes. The number of visitors in 1905, was as follows:—

Reference Library	 	 	 175,029
Lending Branch	 	 	 137,704
Newspaper Room	 	 	 351,890
Total			661 622

Several of the Trustees, during the years which followed the establishment of the Library as a Government Institution, devoted a large amount



SIR WM. MACLEAY. Trustee, 1870-91.

of time to its management; particularly to the examination of booksellers' lists and the purchase of standard works, essential to the initial equipment of a first-class Reference Library. In this direction special acknowledgment is due to the great debt which the Institution is under to the first President, Charles Badham, D.D.—the greatest scholar Australia has known-and also to such men as W. B. Dalley, Professor Stephens, W. A. Duncan, N. D. Stenhouse, J. D. Lang, W. B. Clarke, and Sir William McLeav; all of them not only booklovers, but also men of high attainments and cultivated tastes.

The benefactions from private individuals have been considerable. In their annual reports from time to time, the Trustees have acknowledged these specifically. The Wise bequest has been already referred to. In February, 1885, Messrs. Richard and George Tangye (the former has since been knighted), of Birmingham, England, presented the Library with a copy of the first folio edition of Shakespeare, 1623, in a perfect state of preservation. This splendid gift is regarded as the Library's most valued possession. At various times we have received other rare books and manuscripts from the same source.

Amongst other notable donations may be mentioned the manuscripts of Governor Bligh, presented by his grandson, W. R. Bligh, Esq., of Parramatta, and the journal of Major Lockyer, pioneer of Western Australia, presented by his descendant, Mr. Nicholas Lockyer, Collector of Customs.



PROFESSOR CHARLES BADHAM, D.D. Trustee, 1870–84. President, 1870–83.



Several important private collections have, at various times, been added by purchase, and have been the means of strengthening the Library in special departments of knowledge, c.g., in November, 1885, the library of H. F. Gurner, of Melbourne, comprising 1,200 volumes, was purchased. This collection was particularly rich in Australian books and pamphlets, and was of great service in supplementing the Wise bequest. In February, 1886, Dr. Von Lendenfeld's scientific library of 439 volumes was purchased. In March, 1891, the classical and scientific library of Professor Stephens, consisting of 1,431 volumes and nearly 200 pamphlets, was acquired, and in December, 1896, 1,200 volumes of reports, bound numbers of newspapers, and other publications were received from the Chief Secretary's Department; in the following month I joined the staff of the Library, taking with me the manuscripts and records used in the compilation of the Historical Records of New South Wales.

In their third annual report, dated 9th February, 1874, the Trustees

made allusion to the question of establishing a Lending Branch. They pointed out, however, that until the Library was housed in a more suitable and commodious building, this extension of its functions, however desirable was quite impracticable. They favoured the erection of a building nearer the centre of the city, to be used as a Reference Library, and the utilisation of the old building at the corner of Bent and Macquarie streets as a Lending Branch.

To John Stewart, M.L.C., Trustee, is due the credit of first advocating the advisability of equipping a Lending Branch; he proposed that a building, or rooms, should be hired in the city (Market-street or Park-street were named



W. A. DUNCAN. Trustee, 1870–85. President, 1883–5.

by him as most suitable), and that about 5,000 volumes of standard works should be procured from England. The matter was discussed at several meetings of the Trustees, and finally, in March, 1876, an order was sent to England for 2,000 volumes at a cost of about £500.

When the proposal to establish this branch was being discussed, it was subject to considerable opposition on the ground that it would attract readers from the more serious literature in the Reference Library. It was

found, on the conmation of a Lendthough carried on ing, greatly stimuin the Reading

The Branch basement of the old on 31st July, 1877. months 10,968 vol-1,225 borrowers. which the Branch first, were from The time was exary, 1880, to from This alteration was able to the working unable, under the to avail themselves of the advantages



ROBERT OWEN. Trustee, 1870-8.

trary, that the foring Branch, even in the same buildlated the attendance Rooms.

was opened in the Library building During the first six umes were lent to The hours during was opened, at 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. tended on 1st Janu-10 a.m. to 9 p.m. found very accept-classes, who were former regulations, to any large extent offered.

In August, 1881, the Branch was removed to a separate building, adjacent to Parliament House grounds, which had been originally used as a Church. Here it continued to steadily increase, both in the number and value of books, and the number of borrowers. In June, 1899, the Lending Branch and the Newspaper Room were removed to the second floor of the Queen Victoria Markets, in the very centre of the city. It is a coincidence, that the Branch should be located in exactly that part of the city, where, it was

originally proposed by the Trustees, to rent a room for this purpose, more than thirty years ago.

The removal to more spacious and centrally-situated premises, greatly increased the business. In 1896 (the last year of the occupancy of the old building) the number of borrowers was 6,348. In the following year it had increased to 8,675, while the number of books borrowed, increased, in the same period, from 92,685 to 110,548. The figures for 1908 were:—

Number of volumes available	 	 	29,808
Number of volumes issued	 	 	109,992
Number of borrowers	 	 	8,253

By Act of Parliament, entitled "The Sydney Corporation Amendment Act of 1908," the books, fittings, &c., of the Lending Branch

of the Public vested in the cil of Sydney cember, 1908, October, 1909, entered into pos-

In March, were confronted of the Legislative ing the desirable-interests of society opening the days, from 2 p.m. W. B. Clarke and protested against



W. B. DALLEY. Trustee, 1878-88.

Library were Municipal Counfrom 22nd Deand on 15th the Council session.

1878, the Trustees with a resolution Assembly, affirmness, "in the generally," of Library on Sunto6p.m. The Rev. Rev. Dr. Lang the innovation.

The President (Dr. Badham), in a letter to the Principal Librarian, to which publicity was given in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 9th April, 1878, wrote:—

What is this philanthropy which would promote health and cheerfulness by opening that great dingy cavern of yours to the working-man, and wooing him, by books of voyages and travels, from healthy air and exercise?

A Library is not a fit refuge for those who have heard sermons, nor at all a reasonable substitute to indemnify those who have not.

The Trustees, as a body, when the matter was referred to them, declined to incur the responsibility of taking any action, or making any recommendation. They had no funds to pay overtime to the staff, and pointed out to the Minister that an additional expenditure of £300 per annum would be required for this purpose. The Government, feeling that the weight of



PUBLIC LIBRARY, SYDNEY.

public opinion was behind Parliament, acquiesced, but would not provide any additional funds.

A careful account has been kept of the number of persons who have visited the Library on Sunday afternoon, and the number of books used by them; the figures show that the public has not availed itself of the privileges of access to the Library on Sundays to the extent which was anticipated. During twenty-six years (from 1879 to 1905) the number of books used on Sunday afternoon has been practically stationary, while the number used on week-days has increased nearly threefold. In May, 1896,

a notice was given, in Parliament, to extend the hours on Sunday to 9 p.m.; but the matter was allowed to lapse.

In 1883 the system of furnishing Literary Institutions in the country districts, with boxes of books, was brought into force. The first box equipped, containing sixty expensive, well-bound volumes, valued at £56 10s.; quite 75 per cent. of these books were histories. The Board expressed the opinion that:—

£1,000 per annum spent in this manner will confer greater benefits upon readers and students in country districts than if £10,000 had been voted for distribution among these numerous Institutions in small sums to be expended by local Committees.

In the first instance a charge of \pounds_1 for each box, to cover the cost of freight, packing, collating, &c., was made. This, however, was discontinued

after a few months, and since then the Library has defrayed the entire cost. The first box was sent in August, 1883, to the Wollongong School of Arts.

The present proportions of the scheme can be gathered from the fact that during the year ending 31st December, 1905, 255 boxes, containing 11,871 volumes, were sent to 165 country centres, including thirteen lighthouses. It has been decided to ask Parliament to assist in extending this system, by circulating boxes of books on





SIR WILLIAM MACARTHUR. Trustee, 1870-82.

educational topics, among groups of Public School teachers in far outlying and thinly populated districts of the State.

In 1882 the Trustees ordered from Home a number of embossed books in Braille type for the blind. These were placed in the Lending Branch. In August, 1894, they were transferred by the Trustees to the three Public Institutions for the blind in, and about, Sydney. The books numbered, in all 598 volumes.

In June, 1893, the Principal Librarian produced, as a result of

several years of labour, his "Australasian Bibliography." It was an imposing quarto of 1,245 pages, elaborately descriptive of the Australiana of the Library. On the 25th August, 1803. Mr. Walker retired from the Public Service on a pension. He was a man of great industry, conscientiousness, and enthusiasm, entirely devoted to the Library, and possessed of a kindliness and urbanity which endeared him to his officers and helped to popularise the Institution with its clients. Shortly after his retirement, Mr. Walker was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees. He died on the 25th July, 1897.



PROFESSOR W. J. STEPHENS. Trustee, 1870-90. President, 1885-90.

Mr. Walker was succeeded as Principal Librarian by Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., the present head of the Department. He came to the

edition.

hasbeen

Library with splendid scholastic credentials. He had had a brilliant career at the University, had filled several important official positions, and was recognised as an authority on highereducation. Mr. Anderson's régime as Principal Librarian has been marked by the introduction of the latest and best modern improvements in methods and appliances. As Librarian his name will always be associated with our system of cataloguing. No Public Library in the world can boast of being better served in this respect than that of New South Wales. Mr. Anderson's "Guide to the System of Cataloguing," now in its fourth



EDWARD GREVILLE. Trustee, 1873-1903.



JOHN STEWART. Trustee, 1873-96.

highly praised by the leading authorities on catalogue compilation throughout the English-speaking world.

In September, 1895, the name of the Institution was altered from the "Free Public Library, Sydney," to the "Public Library of New South Wales."

In the following year the administration of the Copyright Act (42 Vic. No. 20) was vested in Mr. Anderson, as Principal Librarian and Registrar of Copyright. For many years after the passing of this Act in 1879, the clause which requires a copy of each book or print published in the Colony, to be

deposited in the Free Public Library, was practically ignored by the publishers. It was not until the Act was administered by the officers of the Library that the Institution benefited to any extent. During the year 1905



SIR GEORGE INNES. Trustee, 1879–96.



SIR WILLIAM WINDEYER. Trustee, 1884-97.

we received, under this Act, 411 books and pamphlets, and a large number of maps, newspapers, and magazines, to the total value of £214.

Mr. Anderson was succeeded in the position of Principal Librarian on January 1, 1907, by Mr. Frank M. Bladen, F.R.G.S., Barrister-at-Law, and Editor of "The Historical Records of New South Wales."

On 17th October, 1898, David Scott Mitchell, M.A., a gentleman who had, for many years, been known by the inner literary circles of Sydney as a keen collector of books; and who was, in particular, admitted to be *facile princeps* in knowledge of Australasian bibliography, communicated, verbally, to the Trustees, through the Principal Librarian, his intention of bequeathing his large and priceless collection of books, pictures, maps, engravings, manuscripts, autographs, and photographs, to the Public Library, on the sole condition that the Government would take early steps to erect a suitable build-



H. C. I. ANDERSON, M.A., Principal Librarian, 1893-1906.



hm. 3: 1898.

Sin I Lihvi brund Jon Litte ofthe 312 With al sot with glasse that the Cabinet is willing taud to my work as to 2 many and Kupy entack by Collection may Informatted to hope that is will son be found possible to

dich rejon a site for the Public Ithing -Ilai the Zonth · Si Jon that Simula DT. Barry An. 22. Hoge. Simute for Parkin Interesty ing for a National Library, and make provision therein for keeping the collection by itself, and making it freely available for students of Australasian history.

To this the Government readily assented. Mr. Mitchell's acknowledgment of the acceptance was dated 3rd November, 1898. The letter is reproduced here in *fac-simile*, not only because the handwriting of such a public benefactor must always, as a personal memento, be interesting, but also because this is the first written intimation we have from Mr. Mitchell, concerning his gift.

From this date the question of erecting an adequate National Library was pressed upon each succeeding Minister, by the Trustees, at every opportunity. The undertakings and obligations of previous Governments, both in regard to votes of Parliament, and promises of sites, were frequently called up in evidence.



SIR EDMUND BARTON. Trustee, 1885–1900.



ALEXANDER OLIVER. Trustee, 1885–1904.

No useful purpose can now be served by dwelling on the pertinacity with which the Trustees and the public dilated upon the danger of delay. From causes to which the incertitude of ministerial succession, and the fluctuations of public finance, largely contributed, seven years were allowed to

elapse before steps were taken which ultimately led to final action. In May, 1905, the Premier, the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.A., took the matter in hand



P. G. KING, Trustee, 1892–1904.

An Act "to sanction the erection of a National Library, for the State of New South Wales" was passed: tenders were invited: and, in the early part of the year 1906, work was commenced. In their Annual Report for 1905, addressed to Mr. Carruthers, the Trustees thus referred to the steps which had been taken for the building of a new National Library:

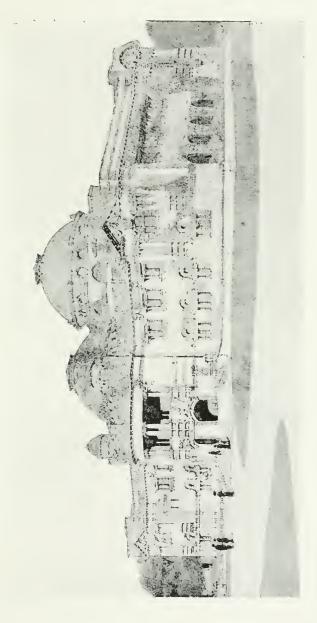
The Trustees desire to place, publicly, on record their appreciation of the vigorous steps which, during the past few months,

with a quick and business-like enthusiasm which relieved the Trustees of any further anxiety. On 5th June following he interviewed Mr. Mitchell. Immediately, he decided upon a site; plans were prepared; and all preliminaries concluded. On 31st October, 1905, the Public Works Committee reported in favour of the erection of—

a complete building, with stone elevations, on the site in the Domain facing Macquarie-street, and adjoining Parliament House grounds: and that the Mitchell Branch be proceeded with as early as possible.



L. J. BRIENT. Trustee, 1899-1902.



THE NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY SYDNEY, IN COURSE OF ERECTION, SHOWING THE MITCHELL WING.



have been taken to push forward the work of providing a fitting home for the unrivalled collection of Mr. Mitchell. They are not unmindful of the extent to which you have personally interested yourself in accelerating the necessary preliminaries. In previous reports the Trustees had occasion to allude to the efforts which had been made by them at various times, but, unfortunately, without success, to secure the selection of a site and the erection of a suitable building; it, is therefore, with great pleasure that they now place on record the action which has been taken since their last report.

The illustration facing page 54 shows the new Library as, according to the present design, it will appear when completed. The Mitchell Wing occupies the right-hand (or Macquarie-street) portion of the building.



HON. J. F. BURNS. Trustee, 1888-1910.



HON. JAMES HAYES, M.L.C. Trustee, 1903-8.

Mr. Mitchell's splendid gift is doubly welcome to the booklovers of Australia by reason of the fact that it has been the means of hastening the erection of a suitable house to contain the literary treasures of the State.

Another indirect outcome of Mr. Mitchell's offer has been the removal of the legal disabilities under which the Trustees laboured. As originally



HON. J. HUGHES, M.L.C. 2nd March, 1899.



PROFESSOR BUTLER, B.A. 2nd March, 1899.



PROFESSOR DAVID, B.A. 2nd March, 1899.



Professor Maccallum, M.A.
President.
28th January, 1891,



HON, SIR NORMAND MACLAURIN, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.L.C. 2nd March, 1899.



w. wood, Esq., J.P. 2nd March, 1899.



HON. A. KETHEL, M.L.C. 2nd March, 1899.



HON. DR. CREED, M.L.C. 8th February, 1901.

PRESENT TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC
WITH DATES OF



J. C. L. FITZPATRICK, ESQ. 8th February, 1901.

D. LEVY, ESQ., B.A., LL.B.

24th July, 1906.

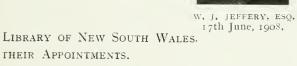


HON. J. L. FEGAN. 20th August, 1903.



J. M. GIBSON, ESQ. 19th August, 1904.







J. A. DOWLING, ESQ. 19th August, 1904,



DR, J. FRED, WATSON. 22nd October, 1910.

constituted, the Board had neither legal status, rights, nor powers. It could not acquire, hold, or dispose of property of any kind. Immediately Mr. Mitchell expressed his intention of bequeathing his collection to the Trustees, steps were taken to remove these disabilities; and, in 1899, an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled the Library and Art Gallery Act, by which the Trustees were constituted a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal. The Act exempts from stamp duty donations or bequests of any kind whatsoever. There is, consequently, no longer any reason why this noble Institution should not participate in the testamentary benefactions of public-spirited eitizens.

On the morning of July 18, 1906, the Library lost, by death, the services of the President of the Trustees, the Honorable James Norton, LL.D., M.L.C. Dr. Norton's association with the Library dated back to the seventies; for nearly thirty years he had devoted himself, without break in time or zeal, to the advancement of the Institution. His long intimacy with the affairs of the Library, his extensive legal knowledge, and his wide acquaintance with public men and governmental institutions and methods, combined to accentuate the strong sense of personal bereavement which every member of the staff felt who had the privilege of his intimacy. The trustees elected Professor MacCallum, M.A., LL.D., as President in succession to Dr. Norton; and Daniel Levy, Esq., B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., was appointed by the Government to the vacant seat on the Board.



SEAL OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Appendix A.

Office-bearers of the Australian Subscription Library, the Australian Library and Literary Institution, and the Public Library of New South Wales—1826-1906.

1826.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

J. Mackaness,
W. Lithgow,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. Dr. J. D. Lang,
Rev. Rev. R. Hill,
Col. G. G. Mills,
Sir John Jamison,
Captain F. N. Rossi

William Carter.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstone-eraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1827.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

J. Mackaness,
Wm. Lithgow,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. Dr. Lang,
Rev. R. Hill,
T. C. Harrington.

Hon. Treasurers: Messis. Berry and Wollstone-craft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1828.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. R. Hill,
Col. G. G. Mills,
F. A. Hely,
Wm. Balcombe,

J. T. Campbell,
A. B. Spark,
G. Allen,
T. C. Harrington,
Wm. Carter.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstone-craft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine,

1829.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. R. Hill.
F. A. Hely,
J. T. Campbell.
G. Allen.

James Laidley,
James Wilson,
Jemmet Brown,
Capt. F. N. Rossi,
H. Donnison.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstoneeraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1830.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. R. Hill,
F. A. Hely,
James Laidley,
T. Macquoid,
M. C. Cotton.

Hon. Treasurers: Messrs. Berry and Wollstoneeraft.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut. Thos. de la Condamine, A.D.C.

1831.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Rev. R. Hill,
James Laidley,
T. Macquoid,
H. Donnison.

E. Wollstonecraft,
E. Deas Thomson,
M. C. Cotton,
R. Therry,
Jemmet Brown.

Hon. Treasurer: W. J. Browne. Hon. Secretary: F. A. Hely.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

T. Macquoid,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
R. Therry,
H. Donnison,

Dr. J. Mitchell, Wm. Lithgow, Major T. L. Mitchell Lt.-Col. Shadforth,

J. E. Manning.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: F. A. Hely.

1833.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S.

Committee:

T. Macquoid, Rev. Wm. Cowper, Dr. J. Mitchell, Major T. L. Mitchell, Captain F. N.Rossi, James Laidley, Rev. R. Hill, W. T. Cape,

F. A. Hely.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. Thomas Shadforth.

1834.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: James Laidley.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper, Dr. J. Mitchell, T. Macquoid, W. T. Cape, F. A. Hely, Rev. R. Hill, Sydney Stephen, A. B. Spark, R. Therry, Thos. Walker.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1835.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: James Laidley.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper, W. T. Cape, F. A. Hely, Geo. Miller, Dr. J. Mitchell, Captain Perry, A. B. Spark, Sydney Stephen, R. Therry, Thos. Walker.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1836.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee :

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
F. A. Hely,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
Captain Perry,
Thos. Walker,

George Miller,
W. T. Cape,
R. Therry,
Rev. R. Hill,
Rev. R. Mansfield.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1837.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee:

Geo. Miller,
W. T. Cape,
R. Therry,
Rev. R. Mansfield,
W. H. Moore,
F. Fisher.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1838.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee :

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
W. T. Cape,
W. H. Moore,
Thos. Walker,
Edward Aspinall,
Dr. C. Nicholson,
W. Carter,
Edye Manning,
Wm. a'Beckett.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1839.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee :

Dr. C. Nieholson,
Win. Carter,
Edye Manning,
W. A'Beckett,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,

Dr. J. Mitchell, W. T. Cape, R. Therry, Rev.Dr. Ullathorne, G. K. Holden.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee:

Dr. J. Mitchell,
W. T. Cape,
R. Therry,
Rev. Dr. Ullathorne,
G. K. Holden,

Wm. Carter,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Chas. Campbell,
Dr. C. Nicholson,
Capt. L. Innes.

Hon. Treasurer: Thomas U. Ryder. Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1841.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Thos. Macquoid.

Committee :

Dr. C. Nicholson,
Chas. Campbell,
Captain L. Innes,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
W. T. Cape,

T. C. Harrington,
Rev. Dr. Ross,
Rev. R. Allwood,
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Lieut.-Col. Barney.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1842.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Judge Burton.

Committee:

W. T. Cape, Rev. Dr. Ross, Rev. R. Allwood, Lieut.-Col. Barney, Capt. W. J. Dumaresq Dr. J. Mitchell.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1843.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Judge Burton.

Committee:

A. M. A'Beckett, John Stirling, Dr. C. Nicholson, Capt. L. Innes, Dr. J. Mitchell,

Rev. R. Mansfield, Rev. W. B. Clarke, W. T. Cape, Rev. Dr. Ross, Capt. W. J. Dumaresq.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1844.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Judge Burton.

Committee :

Rev. R. Mansfield, Rev. W. B. Clarke, W. T. Cape, Capt. W. J. Dunnaresq Rev. Dr. Ross, J. Hume.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.
Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1845.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Sir Thos. Mitchell.

Committee:

A. M. A'Beckett,
W. T. Cape
Rev. Wm. Cowper,
G. Allen,
Rev. R. Mansfield,

A. M. A'Beckett,
B. Windeyer,
Dr. C. Nicholson,
Rev. Dr. Ross,
J. Hume.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Lieut.-Col. T. Shadforth.

1846.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Sir Thos. Mitchell.

Committee:

Rev. Wm. Cowper,
Lt.-Col. Shadforth,
Dr. C. Nicholson,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
Dr. G. Bennett,

G. K. Holden,
Geo. Allen,
Rev. R. Mansfield,
R. Windeyer,
W. T. Cape.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross,

1847.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Sir Thos. Mitchell.

Committee:

Lt.-Col. Shadforth,
Dr. C. Nicholson,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
Dr. G. Bennett,
G. K. Holden,
W. T. Cape,
Geo. Allen,
Rev. R. Mansfield,
Rev. W. B. Clarke,
W. Richardson.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

President: Hon. Alexander McLeay, F.R.S. Vice-President: Dr. C. Nicholson.

Committee:

W. T. Cape, Geo. Allen, Rev. R. Mansfield, Rev. W. B. Clarke, Wm. Richardson, Lt.-Col. Shadforth, Dr. J. Mitchell, Dr. G. Bennett, F. L. S. Merewether, Chas. Kemp.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1849.

President: Hon. E. Deas Thomson. Vice-President: Dr. C. Nicholson.

Committee :

Rev. W. B. Clarke, Dr. J. Mitchell, Dr. G. Bennett, F. L. S. Merewether, Chas, Kemp, . W. T. Cape, Geo. Allen, Rev. R. Mansfield, Wm. S. McLeay, Dr. Wallace.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1850.

President: Hon. E. Deas Thomson. Vice-President: Dr. C. Nicholson.

W. T. Cape. Geo. Allen, Rev. R. Mansfield, Wm. S. McLeay, Dr. Wallace,

Committee:
Rev. W. B. Clarke,
Dr. J. Mitchell,
Dr. G. Bennett,
C. Cowper,
S. A. Donaldson.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1851.

President: Hon. E. Deas Thomson. Vice-President: Dr. C. Nicholson.

Committee:

Rev. W. B. Clarke, Dr. J. Mitchell, Dr. G. Bennett, S. A. Donaldson, C. Cowper, W. T. Cape, Rev. R. Mansfield, W. S. McLeay, Capt. P. P. King, Arthur Savage.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1852.

President: Hon. E. Deas Thomson. Vice-President: Dr. C. Nicholson.

Committee:

Dr. J. Mitchell, Dr. G. Bennett, C. Cowper, W. T. Cape, Rev. R. Mansfield, W. S. McLeay, Capt. P. P. King, Arthur Savage, H. H. Browne, J. Thompson.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

Australian Library and Literary Institution. 1853.

President: Hon. E. Deas Thomson. Vice-President: Sir Charles Nicholson.

Committee:

Rev. R. Mansfield, W. T. Cape, W. S. McLeay, Dr. J. Mitchell, Dr. G. Bennett, C. Cowper, H. H. Browne, J. Thompson, Dr. H. G. Douglass, E. Daintrey.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller. Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross.

1854.

President: Sir Charles Nicholson. Vice-President: Dr. James Mitchell.

Committee :

Rev. Dr. Woolley, Rev. W. B. Clarke, Rev. R. Mansfield, Dr. H. G. Douglass, Professor J. Smith. W. T. Cape. H. H. Browne, C. Cowper,

G. Wright, E. Daintrey.

Hon. Treasurer: George Miller.

Hon. Secretary: Rev. Dr. Ross. Succeeded, 1st May, by W. T. Cape.

1855.

President: Sir Charles Nicholson. Vice-President: Hon. Dr. James Mitchell, M.L.C.

Committee:

H. H. Browne, C. Cowper, G. Wright, Rev. W. B. Clarke, Rev. R. Mansfield, Prof. J. Smith,

E. Daintrey, Rev. Dr. Woolley, Wm. Thompson, Thos. Holt.

Hon. Treasurer: R. A. A. Morehead. Hon. Sécretary: Charles Kemp.

President: Hon. Dr. James Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

H. H. Browne,
Wm. Thompson,
Rev. Dr. Woolley,
Prof. J. Smith,
Rev. R. Allwood,
G. K. Holden.

Hon. Treasurer: R. A. A. Morehead.
Hon. Secretary: Edwin Daintrey.

1857.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Rev. Dr. Woolley, Wm. Thompson,
Prof. J. Smith, W. T. Cape,
Rev. R. Allwood, O. Ottley,
Rev. R. Mansfield, H. H. Browne,
J. Thompson, N. D. Stenhouse.

Hon. Treasurer: R. A. A. Morehead. Hon. Secretary: Edwin Daintrey.

1858.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Prof. J. Smith,
Rev. R. Allwood,
Rev. Dr. Ross,
Rev. R. Mansfield,
J. Thompson,

Plant John Fairfax,
H. H. Browne,
G. M. C. Bowen,
M. Metcalfe,
E. Daintrey.

Hon. Treasurer: R. A. A. Morehead. Succeeded on 23rd June by M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: M. Fitzpatrick. Succeeded on 23rd June by W. T. Cape.

1859.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Prof. J. Smith, H. H. Browne, Rev. R. Allwood, Charles Kemp, R. A. Hunt,
Rev. Daintrey, M. Fitzpatriek, Captain Ward, Rev. Dr. Lang.

> Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe. Hon. Secretary: W. T. Cape.

1860.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Prof. J. Smith, H. H. Browne, Rev. R. Allwood, Charles Kemp, Captain Ward.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.Hon. Secretary: W. T. Cape.

1861.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.
Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Rev. Canon Allwood, R. A. Hunt, H. H. Browne, Thos. Holt,

H. H. Browne,
Dr. G. Bennett,
E. Daintrey,

Captain Ward.

Thos. Holt,
C. Kemp,
Rev. R. Mansfield,

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe. Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead.

1862.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee :

Rev. Canon Allwood, E. Daintrey, G. K. Holden, Rev. Dr. Lang, J. Fairfax,

Rev. R. Mansfield, C. Kemp, Thos. Holt, Capt. Ward, R. Jones.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe. Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead.

1863.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Rev. Canon Allwood,
E. Daintrey,
G. K. Holden,
Capt. Burn,
Rev. Dr. Lang,
Captain Ward.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: R. A. A. Morehead,

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Rev. Canon Allwood,
E. Daintrey,
G. K. Holden,
Capt. Burn,

John Fairfax,
Rev. R. Mansfield,
T. Holt,
R. Jones,

Rev. Dr. Lang, Capt. Ward.

Hon, Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: Prof. J. Smith.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.

Committee:

Rev. Canon Allwood,
Capt. Burn,
E. Burton,
R. Jones,
W. Harbottle,
G. K. Holden,
Rev. Dr. Lang,
W. R. Piddingdon,
J. H. Plunkett
W. Wright.

Hon. Treasurer: M. Metcalfe.

Hon. Secretary: Prof. J. Smith. Succeeded on 4th December by O. Ottley.

1866.

President: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C.
Vice-President: Rev. W. B. Clarke.
Committee:

Hon. R. Johnson,
Hon. E. C. Weekes,
W. R. Piddington,
W. Harbottle,
Rev. Dr. Lang,

M. Metcalfe,
G. Eagar,
R. Jones,
Capt. Burn,
O. Ottley.

Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Richardson.
Hon. Secretary: Wm. Forde.

1867.

Chairman: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Deputy-Chairman: Hon. E. C. Weekes.

Committee:

Capt. Burn,
W. R. Piddington,
R. M. W. Johnson,
A. Dick.

 $Hon.\ Treasurer:\ A.\ H.\ Richardson.$ $Hon.\ Secretary:\ Wm.\ Forde.$

1868.

Chairman: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Deputy-Chairman: Hon. E. C. Weekes.

Committee:

Capt. Burn,
G. Forbes,
A. M. A'Beckett,

Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Richardson.

Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Richardson. Hon. Secretary: Wm. Forde.

1869.

Chairman: Hon. Dr. J. Mitchell, M.L.C. Deputy-Chairman: Hon. C. Campbell, M.L.C.

Committee:

W. R. Piddington,
A. Garran,
G. Forbes,

F. Chapman,
A. M. A'Beckett,
Capt. Burn.

Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Richardson. Hon. Secretary: Wm. Forde.

1870.

Chairman: Hon. C. Campbell, M.L.C.

Deputy-Chairman: A. M. A'Beckett.

Committee:

Capt. Burn
F. Chapman,
W. R. Piddington,
Hon. Treasurer: A. H. Richardson.
Hon. Secretary: Wm. Forde.

Public Library of Hew South Wates.

Past Trustees.

Professor Charles Badham, D.D., 11th Mar., 1870—27th Feb., 1884. (*President*, 11th Mar., 1870—11th May, 1883.)

Rev. W. B. Clarke, M.A., F.R.G.S., 11th Mar., 1870—17th June, 1878.

Right Hon. W. B. Dalley, M.L.C., Q.C., P.C., 11th March, 1870—28th October, 1888.

W. A. Duncan, C.M.G., 11th Mar., 1870—25th June, 1885. (President, 8th June, 1883— 25th June, 1885.)

Rev. Dr. J. D. Lang, M.L.A., 11th Mar., 1870— 8th Aug., 1878.

Sir William Macarthur, Kt., 11th Mar., 1870—1882.

Sir William Macleay, Kt., M.L.C., F.L.S., 11th Mar., 1870—7th Dec., 1891.

Hon. Robert Owen, M.L.C., 11th Mar., 1870— 25th Nov., 1878.

N. D. Stenhouse, M.A., 11th Mar., 1870—18th Feb., 1873.

Professor W. J. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., 11th Mar., 1870—22nd Nov., 1890. (*President*, 27th Mar., 1885—22nd Nov., 1890.) Hon. John Stewart, M.L.C., 22nd April, 1873—30th July. 1896.

Hon. Edward Greville, M.L.C., 9th Aug., 1878— 9th July, 1903.

Hon. James Norton, LL.D., M.L.C., 1st. Nov., 1878—18th July, 1906. (President, 10th Dec., 1890—18th July, 1906.)

Sir George Innes, Kt., 11th Feb., 1879—26th Oct., 1896.

Sir William Windeyer, Kt., M.A., LL.D., 29th April, 1884—11th Sep., 1897.

Right Hon. Sir Edmund Barton, P.C., G.C.M.G., M.A., K.C., 13th July, 1885—July, 1900.

His Honor Alexander Oliver, M.A., 30th Dec., 1885—2nd June, 1904.

Hon. J. F. Burns, 1st Dec., 1888—22nd Sep., 1910.
 Hon. P. Gidley King, M.L.C., 29th August, 1892—5th August, 1904.

R. C. Walker, Esq., 7th Oct., 1893—25th July, 1897.

Lachlan J. Brient, Esq., Mar., 1899—Sep., 1902.
 Hon, James Hayes, M.L.C., 5th Mar., 1903—24th May, 1908.

Present Trustees.

Professor M. W. MacCallum, M.A., LL.D., 28th Jan., 1891. (President, 13th Aug., 1906.)

Professor T. Butler, B.A., 2nd Mar, 1899.

Professor T. W. E. David, C.M.G., B.A., F.G.S., 2nd Mar., 1899.

Hon. John Hughes, M.L.C., 2nd Mar., 1899.

Hon. A. Kethel, M.L.C., 2nd Mar., 1899.

Hon. Sir Normand MacLaurin, M.A., M.D., LL.D., M.L.C., 2nd Mar., 1899.

William Wood, Esq., J.P., 2nd Mar., 1899.

Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed, M.L.C., 8th Feb., 1901. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Esq., 8th Feb., 1901.

Hon. J. L. Fegan, 20th Aug., 1903.

J. Arthur Dowling, Esq., 19th Aug., 1904.

J. M. Gibson, Esq., 19th Aug., 1904.

Daniel Levy, Esq., B.A., LL.B., M.L.A., 24th July, 1906.

W. J. Jeffery, Esq., 17th June, 1908.

James Frederic Watson, M.B., Ch.M., 22nd Oct., 1910.

Officers.

Principal Librarian and Secretary:—Frank M. Bladen, F.R.G.S.

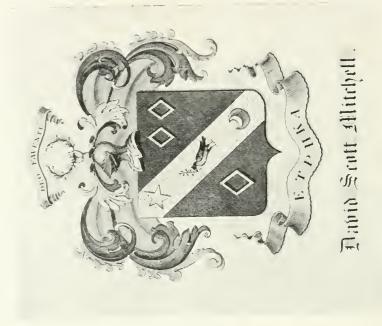
Librarian Mitchell Library:—Hugh Wright.

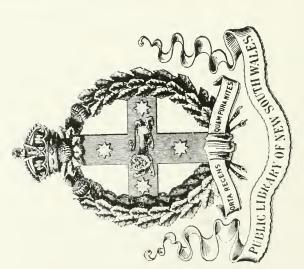
Assistant Librarian:—George H. Gifford.

Cataloguers:—James Pierce, Miss M. Windeyer, Miss M. Y. Fitzhardinge, M.A.

Accountant:—W. H. Gifford.

Superintendent of the Reading Rooms :- J. F. Gannon.





RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

FOR THE

CONDUCT

OF LE

The Australian Subscription Library

EAU

AND

READING ROOM

APPROVED

AT A GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16th MARCH.

SYDNEY:

PRINTED AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE, BY R. HOWE.

1826.

PATRON,

VICE-PATRON

HIS HONOR THE LIEUT. GOVERNOR.

PRESIDENT,

THE HON. ALEXANDER M'LEAY, Esq.

NAMES.

ASPINALL, E. ALLEN, Mr. G. BERRY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BALCOMBE, Mr. W. BLAXLAND, Mr. J. BLAXLAND, Mr. G. BLAND, Dr. BUSBY, JAS. BOWMAN, Dr. BUNN, Mr. COWPER, Rev. W. COWPER, Mr. C. CARTER, Mr. W. CRAWFORD, Mr. CLEMENTS, D. A. C. G. CAMPBELL, sen. Mr. ROBT. CAVANAGH, Mr. CAMPBELL, J. T. CHAMBERS, Mr. DUMARESQ, Col. DE LA CONDAMINE, Lieut.

NAMES.

DIXON, Mr. DOUGLASS, Dr. DE MESTRE, Mr. GURNER, Mr. HELY, Mt. HARRISON, Mr. J. S. HILL, Rev. Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. HOWE, Mr. ROBT. HARINGTON, T. C. (CELY, Mr. JONES, Mr. JAMISON, Sir JOHN. KINGHORNE, Mr. KING, Mr. E. LITHGOW, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LANG, Rev. Dr. MACKANESS, Mr. MILLS, Mr. M'ARTHUR, Mr. J. M'KENZIE, Mr. A.

NAMES.

M'VITIE, Mr.
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OXLEY, Mr.
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ROSSI, Captain
REDDALL, Rev. Mr.
RAINE, Mr.

MAMES.

RAMSAY, D.
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WOLLSTONECRAFT, Mr.
WARREN, Mr.
WARDELL, Dr.
WEMYSS, D. C. G.
WENTWORTH, W. C.

COMMITTEE FOR 1826.

JOHN MACKANESS, E.O. CHAIRMAN.

W. LITHGOW Esc.
Rev. W. COWPER
Rev. Dr. LANG
Rev. R. HILL
F. A. HELY, Esq.

G. MILLS, Esq. Sir J. JAMISON Captain ROSSI W. CARTER, Esq.

TREASURERS,

MESSRS. BERRY AND WOLLSTONECRAFT.

SECRETARY,

LIEUT. DE LA CONDAMINE.

RULES, &c.

1. That the Members of this Institution pay

to the Treasurer, on admission, the sum of £5 sterling, and an Annual Subscription of £2 sterling.

2. That the Annual Subscription be payable in advance on the 1st of January of each Year.

3. That Members admitted subsequently to the 1st of July, be only required to pay half the

Annual Subscription for that Year.

4. That the Business of this Institution be conducted by a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee, consisting of a Chairman and nine Members, three of the Committee to form a Quorum.

5. That the Committee he elected annually, at a General Meeting of the Members, when a time must be appointed for receiving the Accounts from the former Committee.

6. That the Treasurer be required to lay a statement of the Funds before each half-yearly

General Meeting.

7. That any Gentleman, wishing to become a Subscriber, shall be proposed by a Member, and his Name recorded in the Library Room for at least three Weeks, before the next General Meeting, when all Gentlemen so proposed, shall be balloted for and admitted, if approved of by three-fourths of the Members present.

8. That the actual presence of eleven Members shall be requisite to constitute a General

Meeting.

9. That no Regulation shall be made, amended, or repealed, except by a majority at a General Meeting, and until the proposal to that effect, signed by the Chairman of the Committee and the Secretary, as coming from the Committee, or by at least five Members who are not of the Committee, shall have been suspended in the Reading Room at least three Weeks before the General Meeting at which it is to be decided by Ballot.

10. That a General Meeting be held for the despatch of Business on the second Thursday

in January and July of each Year.

11. That the Committee be required to call a General Meeting, whenever ten Members of the Institution shall unite in requesting it.

12. That any Member, having subscribed to the Library for three successive years, shall be privileged to transfer his interest in the Institution to any Gentleman who shall have been approved under the provision of Article No. 7

of these Regulations.

13. That a Book be kept in the Library for Members to enter the Names of the Works they desire should be purchased, adding their own Names to the entry of the Books they recommend, and from which, the Committee will make selections according as the friends of the Society will permit.

14. That all Works entered in the Catalogue

by the Committee, as Books of Reference, or of great Value, shall not be taken from the Library.

15. That Books deposited in the Library by Individuals, for the use of the Members, shall

not be taken from the Library.

16. That Members, on taking Books from the Library, shall be required to leave a receipt with the Librarian, and that a Book be kept for this

purpose with proper columns.

17. That one Copy of every Periodical Publication received for the Institution, shall remain in the Library for one fortnight after its arrival, and that two additional Copies, for general circulation among the Members in the Country, be ordered, of such as the Committee shall approve.

18. That the time which Members shall be allowed to keep Books ont of the Library shall

be regulated by the Committee.

19. That the following Scale of Forfeits be established for each day's detention beyond the time fixed, viz.

Folio or Quarto, 3d. per diem.
Octavo or Duodecimo, 2d, per diem.
Pamphlets, 1d. per diem.

Periodical Publications for the first six months after their arrival, 6d. per diem. 20. That if any Book be lost or defaced, the person in whose hands it was, or ought to have been, shall pay the original Value of the Book, or of the set, if it belongs to one

or of the set, if it belongs to one.

21. That no Member be allowed to have in his possession more than two Volumes at a time, excepting when the Plans, Maps, or References are bound up separately, in which case, he may have that which refers to the Book he is reading.

22. Whoever applies first to the Librarian for a Book shall have it, and so in succession; but, if two or more apply for the same Book, at the same time, the preference will be determined

by Lot.

23. That Office of His Majesty's Army and Navy, and Ministers of Religion, not permanently resident at Sydney, shall be invited to become honorary Members, paying the Annual Subscription only, and be entitled to all the privileges of this Institution, except that of voting at General Meetings.

24. That any stranger, a temporary resident for a period not exceeding three months, be allowed admission into the Library, if introduced by two Members who shall record his Name, with their own opposite, in a Book to be kept for that purpose in the Library.

25. That the Committee shall meet once a

month, or oftener, if necessary, and shall form themselves into Sub-committees, according to the several objects of the Institution, for the

more effectual promoting its interests.

26. That if Subscriptions are not paid within a Month, by Members residing at Sydney, and by those that live in the Country within two Months after they have become due, the Librarian is expressly prohibited from giving out any Book to such deficient Members, till the sums respectively due by them are paid; and if any Member shall allow his Subscription to run in arrears for a twelvemonth, shall be considered to have discontinued being a Member, and forfeit his Share in the Library.

27. That a General Meeting shall have the power of expelling a Member, if the proposal to that effect, signed as coming from the Committee, or by at least five Members not being of the Committee, be openly suspended in the Reading Room, four weeks before the Ballot, at which a majority of three-fourths shall de-

cide.

28. That the Subscriptions being made payable in advance, no debts shall be incurred by the Society.

FINIS.



DAVID SCOTT MITCHELL, M.A.
Barrister-at Law.



Appenbix C.

THE MITCHELL LIBRARY.

Proceedings at the Ceremony of setting the Commemoration Stone of the Mitchell Wing of the Public Library of New South Wales, 11th September, 1906.

THE ceremony of setting the commemoration stone of the Mitchell Wing of the new Public Library building at the Bent-street entrance to the Sydney Domain, which is to contain the magnificent collection of Australian literature presented to the State by David Scott Mitchell, Esq., M.A., took place on the afternoon of Tuesday, 11th September. 1906, before a large and representative gathering. Mr. Mitchell

himself, owing to ill-health, was unfortunately unable to attend.

Amongst the large gathering of citizens present, representing the official, literary, artistic, and commercial life of the State, were the Hon. I. H. Carruthers, M.A., M.L.A., Premier of New South Wales; Hon. J. A. Hogue, M.L.A., Chief Secretary; Hon. S. W. Moore, Secretary for Mines and Agriculture; Hon. C. A. Lee, M.L.A., Secretary for Public Works: Hon. Sir F. B. Suttor, M.L.C., President of the Legislative Council; Hon. Sir John See, K.C.M.G., M.L.C. Of the Trustees of the Public Library, there were present the Hon. A. Kethel, M.L.C., Acting President; Hon. J. F. Burns; Hon. J. Hughes, M.L.C., Vice-President, Executive Council; Hon. Dr. J. M. Creed, M.L.C.; Mr. J. A. Dowling; Mr. J. L. Fegan, M.L.A.; Hon. J. Hayes, M.L.C.; Mr. D. Levy, M.L.A.; Mr. Wm. Wood, J.P. (Three of the Trustees-Professor M. W. MacCallum, the President, Sir Normand MacLaurin, and Professor David—were absent from the State at the time; and the remaining three—Professor Butler, Mr. J. M. Gibson, and Mr. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick—sent apologies for absence due to urgent private engagements.) Hon. N. Hawken, Hon. W. Robson, Hon. J. Wilson. Members of the Legislative Council; Messrs. W. Anderson, R. T. Ball, R. Booth, E. C. V. Broughton, J. J. Cohen, J. Fallick, J. Hurley, S. J. Kearney, J. Nobbs, E. W. O'Sullivan, W. W. Young, Members of the Legislative Assembly; and the following representatives of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, donor of the Mitchell Library:—Messrs. E. A. M. Merewether, H. M. Merewether, and W. M. Merewether (nephews,) Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Wardell, and Mrs. Busby (nieces), Miss Rose Scott and Mrs. Shaw (cousins); H. C. L. Anderson, M.A., Director, Intelligence Department, and Principal Librarian: His Honor Judge Backhouse; Mrs. and Miss Badham; O. H. Baker, Consul for U.S.A.; F. M. Bladen, F.R.G.S., Librarian, Lending Branch; Rev. Canon Boyce; E. M. de Burgh; J. J. Calvert, I.S.O.; William Dixson; E. Du Faur, F.R.G.S.; W. M. Fairland, Secretary, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts; W. M. Fehon; Mrs. and Miss Garran; F. B. Guthrie, F.C.S.; W. E. Hawkins, Hon. Secretary of the Shakespeare Society. of New South Wales; Alexander Hay; Dr. A. Houison; H. A. Hunt, Government

Meteorologist; R. F. Irvine, M.A.; D. Kirkcaldie; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Lee; H. A. Lenehan, Acting Government Astronomer; Charles Lyne; Lady Manning and Miss Manning: Miss Sarah Milligan; Dr. R. N. Morris; G. McRae, Assistant Government Architect: George Robertson; Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Saunders; Mrs. Robert Scott; Norman Selfe: Thomas Steel, President, Linnean Society; Mrs. and Miss Stephens; Lieut.-Colonel W. L. Vernon, F.R.I.B.A., Government Architect; Francis Walsh,

Parliamentary Librarian; Mrs. F. W. Ward; Rev. W. H. H. Yarrington;

Proceedings were commenced by the Hon. Alexander Kethel, M.L.C., Acting-President of the Trustees of the Public Library, who invited the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, M.L.A., Premier of New South Wales, to place in a cavity which had been prepared in the commemoration stone, a hermetically sealed bottle containing notes of the addresses to be delivered by the Premier and Mr. Kethel, a copy of the annual report of the Public Library for the year 1905, copies of the morning and evening newspapers, and sundry other documents, also the current coins of the realm, and a number of medals taken from the foundation stone of the Parliamentary buildings which were originally intended to occupy the site. The Premier placed the bottle in the cavity, and the stone was swung up in readiness for setting. It bore the inscription:

> THIS COMMEMORATION STONE WAS SET ON TITH SEPTEMBER 1006 A.D. BY

THE 'HONORABLE' JOSEPH' HECTOR' CARRUTHERS' PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES ACTING FOR DAVID'SCOTT'MITCHELL'M.A. DONOR OF THE MITCHELL LIBRARY

Address by the Acting President.

Mr. Kethel then delivered the following address:

Our late respected President, the Hon. Dr. Norton, who had been a trustee for twenty-eight years, and President for sixteen years, had long looked forward to this day. He did much to bring about the happy result that we are celebrating to-day, and hoped to be spared to preside over this ceremony, but he was stricken down with sickness and passed away from among us a few weeks since, being permitted to see the near fulfilment of his wishes, but not to participate in them. The Board of Trustees elected Professor MacCallum to the office of President in succession to Dr. Norton, and that gentleman being now absent from the State my co-trustees have appointed me to preside on this occasion.

As soon as men were so far advanced in civilisation as to commit their thoughts to writing in any portable form, whether on papyrus, bricks, tablets, parchment. or paper, there were books, and, consequently, libraries. It is said that as early as 3.800 years B.C., Sargon 1st, ruler of the Asiatic city of Accad, formed a library in that city. Libraries were also formed in the chief cities of Babylonia, and a famous one is said to have existed in Nineveh, rich in works on history, astronomy, sacred and scientific subjects. Egypt, Greece, and Rome also possessed many public and private libraries, that of Alexandria being famous for its reputed possession of a literature which contained the wisdom of ancient Egypt. The downfall of the Roman Empire involved the destruction or dispersion of these ancient libraries; and during the middle ages the few books that escaped destruction found a safe asylum in the monasteries, where they were preserved with care and copied with scrupulous labour and great skill. The revival of learning in the 15th century, followed by the invention of printing, led to a vast increase in the production of books and introduced a new era in the history of Public Libraries. The number of these establishments has vastly increased and is constantly increasing, till now almost every town and village has one or more of them. Referring to the origin and growth of the Public Library of Sydney, it is interesting to note the expedient that the scanty and scattered population of Sydney at that time resorted to. (The whole population of the colony did not exceed 30,000 and of Sydney probably not quite half that number.) A number of leading citizens, in order to secure the circulation of the few books in the Colony, resorted to the ingenious and unique plan of each making out a list of books in his private library; these lists were consolidated into one catalogue or inventory: opposite the title of each book listed in this consolidated catalogue were placed the initials of the owner's name in whose private collection it was to be found. So it may be said Australia had a catalogue before it had a library. The scheme was originated in 1821 by Mr. Justice Field, and Messrs. Oxley, Goulburn, Berry, Douglas, Wollstonecraft, and Irvine. There is no reason to doubt that the movement thus commenced was the germ of the old Australian Subscription Library, out of which the Public Library of to-day has developed. On Friday, February 3, 1826, ten gentlemen met at the Sydney Hotel to consider the advisability of forming a Reading Room and Circulating Library in Sydney. The leading spirit was Lieut. de la Condamine, A.D.C. to Governor Darling, who had just arrived; they had written promises of support from several other officers and civilians, and they declared the institution formed under the style and title of the Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room. The entrance fee was five guineas, and the annual subscription two guineas. At a later date members admitted on these terms were styled proprietors, as distinguished from subscribers, who paid three guineas a year, but no entrance fee. Within a fortnight the first general meeting was called, rules and regulations were drawn up: these rules and a list of the first officers and members were printed. A copy of this interesting and unique pamphlet is in the possession of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, and is the only one known to be in existence. In April, 1826, the first order for books and periodicals was sent to London. This list is still preserved among the Library archives, and is a very interesting document. The great quarterlies have precedence, followed by high-priced standard works on history, theology, biography, science, and travels; and, as if to grant concessions to the weaker vessels, Scott's novels were added. Operations were commenced on 1st December, 1827, with about 1,000 volumes, including several hundred lent by members. The first home of the Library was at No. 1 Terry's Buildings, Pitt-street, situated at the spot where Raine and Horne's Auction Rooms now are. A great many of these first imported volumes

are still on the shelves of our Library. During the next eighteen years the Library experienced several removals and varied fortunes, owing to the changing conditions of colonial life, and the rapid increase of the population of Sydney; and in 1845 the building in Macquarie-street on the site still occupied by the Library was built and the books removed thither. The institution soon became to be recognised as the home and meeting-place of Literary and Scientific bodies. From 1845 till 1869 the governing body conducted the operations of the Library with varied success; but became involved in financial difficulties, and in the latter year they sold the building and its contents to the Government. On September 30th, 1869, after adding a valuable collection of Australian books bequeathed by Mr. Justice Wise, the Government opened the institution to the public as the Free Public Library of Sydney. From that date the history of the Library has been one of rapid progress in the increase and value of the books added to its catalogue, the systematic methods of working the Institution, and the growing popularity and public favour which it enjoys.

The original building being found unsafe, was rebuilt, but being too small to accommodate the increasing stock of books and the reading public, a wing facing Bent-street was added. This was very soon occupied to its fullest extent. At the present time the accommodation, even with that addition, is quite inadequate to provide for the ever-increasing demand. At the time these additions were made it was recognised that a new library would soon be a necessity; the architect had, therefore, their probable future use as Government Offices in view rather than the special needs of a Public Library. Consequently for many years the Institution has remained in a building not only totally inadequate in the matter of space and accommodation, but, also, quite unsuited structurally for the purpose for which it has been used. It is confidently expected, however, that the end of our troubles is in sight, and that when the Mitchell wing is finished the remainder of the State Library will be commenced without any break in the operations.

In 1877 the Trustees decided to add a Lending Branch to the Library, and started in the basement of the Bent-street building, but finding the space insufficient it was removed to the old iron church in Macquarie-street, in 1881. In 1899, the New Queen Victoria Markets being finished, and being situated in a central position in the city, the Trustees rented a portion of the second floor of that building, and removed the Lending Branch to these spacious and convenient premises, where they also established a newspaper room, supplied with all the leading Australasian, and a few European and American papers, which is proving to be one of the most popular

Branches of the Library.

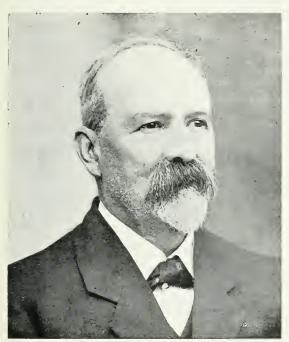
In 1883 the Trustees decided to supply institutions in the country districts with boxes of books, and since then have forwarded to schools of arts, municipal councils, and local public libraries, books, packed about sixty volumes in each box, of carefully selected literature. These are forwarded free to all parts of the State. The first box was sent to Wollongong School of Arts. We also forward to scholars and students in all parts of the State, free of charge, educational works, such as they may require, and thus extend the benefits of the library to every part of the State. In addition to this the Trustees, acting under arrangements with the Navigation Department, supply lighthouse-keepers—many of them stationed in isolated

places—with boxes of books, suitable for both adults and children on the station. During the past year twenty-five boxes, containing 1,276 volumes, were supplied to the lighthouse-keepers along our coast.

In 1899 an Act of Parliament was passed called the Library and Art Gallery Act, by which the Trustees were constituted a corporate body with perpetual suc-

cession and a common seal.

The credit for the present site is entirely due to the Premier. He suggested it to the Trustees, who at once unanimously approved. The Secretary for Public Works (the Hon. C. A. Lee) thereupon instructed the Government Architect (Mr. W. L. Vernon, F.R.I.B.A.) to prepare designs for New Library Buildings,



THE HON. C. A. LEE, M.L.A., Secretary for Public Works.

together with all the necessary particulars, for submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works. Some active controversy took place at the inquiry relative to the question of alternative sites; but on the 31st October, 1905, the Committee reported in favour of the erection of the building. Mr. Carruthers has since given the matter earnest attention, and has pushed it on with such vigour that it is now on a happy road to completion.

The Government invited Mr. Mitchell, the donor of the Mitchell Library, to set the commemoration stone, but in his regrettable absence through ill-health, the Trustees unanimously invited the Premier to perform this ceremony, and this course was cordially agreed to by Mr. Mitchell.

The plans are the outcome of the professional skill of the Government Architect, who has carried them out in conformity with the specification of the

Principal Librarian. made after a tour of the principal libraries of Europe and America; all the latest points of library economy and administration are embodied in the plans, and it is expected to be very complete in its conveniences for students, and its comfort for the public and the staff. With power of expansion it ought to provide accommodation for this growing State for a century to come.

The last year's work of the Library was as follows:-

Reference Library, number of visitors		175,020
Newspaper Room, do do		351,890
		137,704
		138,896
		152
Number of Lighthouses supplied		13
Number of volumes sent		11,871
Country students and scholars supplied		105
Number of books in Reference Library, December 31, 190	5	139,342
Do do Travelling Boxes		6,122
Do do Lending Branch		29,121
Newspapers supplied during year		502
Do single issues		51,939

The Sydney School of Arts deserves more than a passing notice at our hands. Established in 1833, just seven years after the foundation of the Australian Library, it became at once a popular and useful institution. In addition to the reference and lending branches of its library, it established a reading-room with magazines, reviews, and newspapers; formed classes for the instruction of the youth of both sexes; and organised lectures, usually free, for the instruction of the general community, the lectures being generally on literary and scientific subjects. There was also a debating club formed, which, for fifty years, was a training school or nursery for our public men. Governors of the Colony and professors of the University frequently occupied the lecture platform, and graduates taught its classes. As early as 1870, the Committee of the School of Arts, recognising that the system of apprenticing boys to trades had fallen into disuse, and as a consequence our youths were either untaught or taught in a very slipshod manner, resolved to establish a Working Man's College. For this purpose they leased land and raised funds on mortgage to enable them to extend their premises and provide the necessary accommodation for the increased number of classes that were formed. The subjects taught were many, and ranged from cooking and domestic economy for girls to architectural and mechanical drawing and design. The system adopted was so popular and successful that in a few years it grew to such an extent as to induce the Government to take it over and make it an important section of the Educational Department of the State. Our present Premier, the Hon. J. H. Carruthers, when Minister of Public Instruction in 1891, secured the land at Ultimo, and caused to be erected thereon the present Technical College and Museum; and we trust that it will be his good fortune to complete the splendid edifice, the commencement of which we are to-day celebrating under such favourable conditions.

The Library of the Sydney University in 1859 contained about 8,000 volumes, chiefly works of lasting value. After the death of Mr. N. D. Stenhouse, Mr. Thomas Walker purchased his valuable library for £700 and presented it in 1878 to the University. Donations and additions were after that very frequent, and in 1885 the late Mr. Thomas Fisher bequeathed the sum of £30,000 to be applied to the establishment

and maintenance of a library. Since then the books have rapidly increased in number. They now consist of 70,000 volumes, and are keeping pace with the increase of knowledge in every department of human industry and scholarship. The handsome and commodious building now being erected by the Government for the Fisher Library, and rapidly approaching completion, will form a fitting home for this great and growing library, and afford facilities for the teaching staff and

the students within its spacious halls. The library of the Parliament is one of the oldest in the State. It was established in the year 1843 in connection with the combined nominee and elected Legislative Council of that time. The library then possessed less than 400 books, which number has since increased to almost 50,000 volumes. On the first Library Committee were Dr. Nicholson (afterwards Sir Charles) and Mr. Edward Deas Thomson (Colonial Secretary). The appropriation for books was limited to £300, and the expenditure up to 1856 was £3,453 upon 6,662 books. Since the advent of responsible government, the library has been managed by a joint committee of both Houses. Regarding the composition of the library collection, the aim has been to maintain it as one of practical utility rather than one of a general character; consequently the division devoted to works on Government and books relating generally to the business of Parliament is necessarily the most complete. But the other sections, including history, biography, geography and travel, and general literature, are sufficiently comprehensive to meet the requirements of the Legislature. Until last year no suitable provision had been made to house the books properly, but since then a commodious fire-proof library has been completed, and it was opened by His Excellency the Governor on the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee of responsible Government on 22nd May, 1906.

The Royal Society of New South Wales possesses a library of 20,000 volumes, the major portion of which consists of the transactions of various Societies and Institutions, and journals dealing with every branch of science, in the collection of which the Trustees have been largely indebted to the Government of the United States of America, the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, and other learned bodies in Europe and America. It is available for consultation, not only to members,

but, also, under very liberal conditions, to the public at large.

In addition to the libraries referred to in the foregoing remarks, there are in Sydney:—The Australian Museum Library of 12,000 volumes, consisting principally of proceedings of learned societies, and scientific books, which although primarily required for reference by the Staff in connection with the work of the Museum, are available under regulations for consultation by students.

The Linnean Society had its library destroyed at the Garden Palace Fire in 1882, but has since collected about 9,000 volumes, all of a scientific character.

The library of the Technical College, dating from 1881, contains 3.892 volumes of books, 1,115 volumes bound periodicals and 63 trades journals. They are principally text-books and publications dealing with subjects taught at the College.

All these libraries are constantly increasing the number of books on their shelves. In addition to these public or quasi-public institutions, the reading public

is catered for by numerous book clubs and private circulating libraries.

These figures will serve to show that, considering its age, and the difficulties incidental to pioneering life in a new country, New South Wales, with its capital city, is not badly provided with libraries for the use of its different classes of students. It is to be hoped that the generous example of Mr. Mitchell will now be followed by many other citizens who have made special collections in accordance with their own individual tastes. By the generosity of the Parliament, which we hope will be continued to us in the future as it has been in the past, aided by the sympathetic co-operation of private citizens and collectors of books, we hope to see our State Library become as great, as renowned, and as useful to New South Wales as kindred institutions have proved themselves to be in the older countries of the world.

At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Kethel, on behalf of Mr. D. S. Mitchell, the donor of the Mitchell Collection, and of the Trustees of the Public Library, invited Mr. Carruthers to lay the commemoration stone. The Premier performed the ceremony with a trowel and mallet presented for the purpose by Messrs. Howie Brothers, the contractors, and declared the stone to be well and truly laid.

Address by the Premier.

Mr. Carruthers then addressed the gathering in the following words:—

Mr. Kethel, Ladies and Gentlemen,-

I am sure that all present will join with me in regretting that the late President of the Library, Dr. Norton, has not lived to take that leading part in to-day's ceremony which his worth deserved. I know that prior to his death he had looked forward with keen zest to this function, and had actually prepared the notes of his address. The Public Library owes a great deal of its present value to his keen personal interest as well as to his valuable knowledge of books; but we are favoured in having present with us to-day the Acting-President, Mr. Kethel, who is a fit representative of such a democratic institution. He is a living illustration of the value of study and of the use of books in helping to make a useful citizen. But, above all, we must regret the absence of Mr. Mitchell, and especially that it is owing to his ill-health that he was prevented from accepting the invitation of the Government to set this stone. I consider it a very high honor to be permitted to associate my name with this great national undertaking, and especially so at the invitation of the trustees with the special support of Mr. Mitchell, who, I understand, expressed the desire that I should perform the official ceremony of the day.

The Government is gratified that the contract has fallen into the able hands of old and tried contractors, Messrs. Howie Bros., whose name is proverbial for faithful work and straightforward dealing, and who have already had some part in building our existing Public Library, our National Art Gallery, and other notable

buildings.



THE HON. J. H. CARRUTHERS, M.A., M.L.A. Premier.



It will not be out of place for me to refer to Mr. Mitchell, whose magnificent gift has called for the erection of this building. It is a remarkable fact, worthy of special note, that Mr. Mitchell was born in the medical officer's quarters of the old Military Hospital, which is now Parliament House, and therefore within a few feet of the site of the Mitchell Library, which is to contain his unique collection. His father, the Hon. Dr. James Mitchell, a member of the first Council appointed by the Imperial Government, and afterwards of the Legislative Council under responsible Government, took a warm personal interest in the old Australian Subscription Library, on the committee of which he served for thirty-seven years, from 1832 till 1869. Mr. Mitchell was one of the first batch of students at our University, going to the classes of Dr. Woolley at the age of 16. Among his fellow-students were the late Sir William Windeyer and Alexander Oliver, also the Rev. R. S. Willis, who happily survives so many of that first class of graduates. Mr. Mitchell distinguished himself as a student, winning a scholarship and honors in classics. was also distinguished in the cricket field and in other manly sports. After graduating in 1856, he studied for the Bar, to which he was admitted in due course. He never practised his profession, as he found the management of his large estate in the Hunter Valley sufficient to absorb his energies, but the fact that he was once offered the position of Attorney-General indicates the opinion held by one Premier of his abilities and potential value to the State. Unfortunately the biographical details available about our benefactor are very meagre, owing to his absolute disregard of self, and refusal to grant any one an interview, or to discuss anything more personal than the Library which he wishes to present to his native land—the one great object of his life. He began to make a choice collection of books, chiefly poetry and the drama of all countries, at an early age, but in later years gave his most loving attention to Australian books and records.

In 1898 Mr. Mitchell intimated his intention of bequeathing the collection which he had been making for forty years, with the simple condition attached to the gift that the Government should, at an early date, provide accommodation for the library, and make it freely available for the use of students on the lines of the British Museum. The Government gladly accepted this condition, but, unfortunately, nothing definite was done in the way of making plans and commencing the building until last year. In 1899 the Public Library was incorporated, mainly through the sympathetic action of Mr. Wise, and thereby the trustees were made a corporate body with perpetual succession, able to hold and administer any property bequeathed to them. Owing mainly to the difficulties encountered with regard to the sites chosen, little progress was effected till the present Government suggested the site now adopted, which met with the hearty concurrence of the trustees and Mr. Mitchell himself.

The Principal Librarian at once submitted a specification for a comprehensive and well-planned building, dictated by the experience gained by him during his visit to Europe and America, where he saw the greatest modern libraries. The Government Architect has prepared a worthy plan, which will provide a building that will serve the purposes of students, be convenient to administer in the interests of the public and the staff, and will provide one of the most ornamental features

of this city. Every care has been taken to make the building conform to the latest principles of library economy, to ensure safety from fire, and ample accommodation for accessions for the next fifty years, with capacity for expansion for generations hence.

By a happy coincidence, tenders were invited for the building of the Mitchell

Library on March 19th, the 70th anniversary of the donor's birthday.

Since definite action has been taken by the Government, and an earnest desire shown to meet Mr. Mitchell's wishes, he has intimated his intention of endowing the Library with a considerable portion of his wealth, so that it will continue to expand after the generous donor may be unable personally to superintend its growth; and it is now, and must more and more become, far the largest purely Australian Library in the world. Mr. Mitchell has never grudged any expense to secure rare books, MSS., pictures, engravings, maps, even coins, and anything else that can help the future historian of Australia to write the history of any phase of its social, scientific, or material development. The value of the collection has been estimated by competent authorities at £100.000, but it is, in point of fact, unique and priceless, as no money could possibly replace it. If the Mitchell Collection were destroyed, with its many original MSS., despatches, reports, unique books, maps, and pamphlets, the history of New South Wales could not be written—which means the history of Australia, for during the first fifty years of Australian history New South Wales practically meant Australia.

Each scientific society has naturally its own specialistic collection of books; each social circle may have its own class of literature: each public institution, its own group of books needed for its peculiar requirements. But a national library must cater for all classes in greater or less degree. It should provide, within reasonable limits, the material needed for any student of science, literature, or art. Mr. Mitchell has made Australiana, or books relating to Australia, his specialty, and to that section this wing of the National or Public Library of New South Wales is dedicated.

May we not hope that other book-lovers and collectors may be stimulated by his example to go and do likewise? It has been invariably found in America that the example of donors of books and collections has been very infectious, and that the mere presence of beautiful and commodious libraries in each of the great American States has stimutated book-lovers to present or bequeath their collections to the city or the State, rather than have them broken up after years of patient collecting. The Boston Public Library, for example, which cost half a million to build, and was, when it was erected ten years ago, the most beautiful building of its kind in America, received donations to the value of its entire cost within ten years of its dedication. What would Great Britain, the United States. France, or any other civilized country, give for a national collection of literature in the widest sense, that extended back to its very infancy and embraced the earlest records of its founding? Even with its 3,000,000 volumes, Great Britain has not the material to enable historians. of to-day to get the exact records of English history since the Norman Conquest. It is true that the Domesday Book and Magna Charta are available in the British Record Office, but many other MSS, and documents relating to the times before Caxton introduced printing have disappeared in oblivion, and many of the more valuable books printed during the last five centuries have also been lost. On the other hand, the Mitchell Library is so complete in all the printed books and a great many MS. records relating to the early history and development of this country, that it is rare for a fresh book of great value, or a map or chart, or old MS., to come now under Mr. Mitchell's notice. In his researches he has interpreted "Australia" in the widest sense to cover Australasia and the whole of the Pacific Islands, from the Philippines to the Sandwich Group. He has collected all books dealing with the travels of the earliest Portuguese, Dutch, and Spanish navigators, down to Captain Cook, neglecting no record that deals with the earliest efforts of explorers to reach the long-dreamed-of Terra Australis or the Great Southern Sea or any of its islands. He has collected all books dealing with the anthropology, ethnology, philology, geology, botany, economics, and all the natural sciences relating to the whole of this great region. His endeavour has been to make the Library so complete that students from all lands who wish to study the history of any aspect of the national, political, social, or physical development of the vast tract of Australia, and the islands supposed to be links connecting it with Asia and America, will have to come to Sydney for material, as even now they are coming from the universities of Europe and the United States, to study at first hand our peculiar social and political development, and our marvellous flora and fauna.

While Mr. Mitchell has made it his special care to secure all the old and rare books and every record that can throw light on our own past history, he has left to the State Library trustees the task of providing current Australian literature and newspapers, and a fair selection of the best books of the busy literary and official world of to-day. This they have done as well as their means would allow, so that seldom any student is unable to find the reference or authority he requires. In the history of the Library are many names of distinguished men who have done yeoman service for the institution, chief among whom I would commemorate to-day those of Professor Charles Badham and Professor W. J. Stephens, whose representatives

I am glad to see present with us to-day.

Many poor students who have distinguished themselves in our schools and university have made grateful acknowledgment of the Library's aid in achieving their honors, and in acquiring a higher knowledge which is often unattainable owing to the cost of the necessary books. The Institution has ever been free to all who

love learning, and show the seemly behaviour of lovers.

For our age and population we have no cause to be ashamed of the size and value of our State Library. With the Mitchell Collection, it will number nearly a quarter of a million volumes—a volume to each family in the State averaging six souls. The British Museum—The National Library of Great Britain—has only one volume to each sixteen persons, the French National Library, about the same, the German Library even less, and the Congress Library of Washington only one volume to forty persons. Of course, these older countries have many other large libraries which are supplementary to the national one, but no country spends more public money on books for free general use per head of the population than New South Wales. It is a matter of some gratulation that while, as a young people, we have

been busy cutting down the forests, ploughing the virgin fields, opening mines and building pioneers' homes, the proceedings of this day emphasize the fact that we have not forgotten those higher and nobler achievements pertaining to a people truly great, and that one of our own sons and earliest University students has devoted his life to such a nobly patriotic purpose.

It is my sincere hope and confident expectation that the finances of the State will warrant the Government in pressing on with the whole plan as designed by Mr. Vernon and approved by the Public Works Committee, so that we may have a

LIEUT.-COL. W. L. VERNON, F.R I.B.A., Government Architect.

Library worthy of the State, and a complete building worthy of the site and its high purpose.

I trust also that the Municipal Council of Sydney will soon realize its obligations to furnish from city rates a library for the literary recreation of its citizens, and leave to the State the more strictly educational functions of a great Reference Library and Archives of National History.

The Trustees of the Public Library have long suffered many disabilities and difficulties owing to the unsatisfactory planning of the old building and its unsuitability for the rapid expansion necessary in a State Library. With the new well-planned building, much better work will be possible. It will be the quiet home of the earnest student, rich or poor, old or young, who seeks for knowledge and mental improvement.

We pride ourselves on our system of public schools, by the aid of which every child is enabled to get a good primary education as his share of the common

heritage, and we have made the opportunities of education as broad as a generous Parliament can make them. In doing this, however, we but place the key of knowledge in the student's hand. The corollary or complement of the public school must be the treasury which that key opens—the Public Library, which will carry on the work the schools have begun. At that critical period when good and evil influences are contending in the soul of youth, when temptations are strongest, the power of resistance weakest, we should place all the incitements, all the allurements,

all the opportunities, on the side of good. We should provide mental pabulum for all classes but the vicious and the literary trifler. We should offer our boys and girls the lives of men and women whose deeds have won them true glory, and whom mankind delight to honour. We should place in our youths' hands the story of our nation, with its noble achievements and its illustrious men. We should give them the chance of associating in spirit with all the greatest and noblest thinkers and workers that have adorned the world's history. For every pure taste, for every worthy ambition, the Public Library can provide; towards every aspiration for good it can give an impetus. In the busy arena of to-day not only the scholar, but the man of business, the merchant, the professional man, the mechanic, touches life at a hundred points. Success in any avenue of useful work presupposes some knowledge of the sciences and their application, of branches of philosophy and economics, of history and of geography. To the man and woman whose opportunities have not gone beyond the primary school, the Public Library is a great continuation class-room. Some who have got only a taste from the Pierian spring of knowledge will, if the opportunity be allowed them, press forward to drink deeper and still deeper draughts of life-giving knowledge. Where can such opportunities be provided? For some the higher schools are open: for the highly favoured few the University offers its valued teachings: but to the great mass of the people the Public Library gives the chief opportunity of supplementing the knowledge already acquired, with the glowing thoughts and burning words of the best writers and the greatest thinkers. The Public Library places everyone on a broad platform of democratic equality, such as can only exist in the republic of letters. It is the people's University, where all may read, learn, and profit by the results of the thought and study of those who have unselfishly devoted their lives to extending the boundaries of knowledge. Even to the most highly educated of our University men it is a storehouse of the learning of all ages, to which he can come for further knowledge and renewed inspiration. In it he will find recorded the evolution or development of the moral, religious, social, and intellectual life of the whole human family.

Books are a necessity of our advanced civilization. By their means we are able to place our own thoughts and actions in co-relation with what mankind is doing, and they thus form a great electric chain that links together the great families of the human race, past as well as present. In them the great and good men of all ages and all countries live. A great Reference Library, such as this will be, is composed of the best thoughts of the best thinkers of all time. It contains the diary of the human race. The memory of the individual goes back but a little way; or if it goes back far, it picks up but here a date and there an occurrence half forgotten. When he keeps a diary of his life, he can keep the whole of its scenes before him. The memory of the human race is as short, as fragmentary, as accidental, as that of the individual. But with the books of mankind gathered together in one large room, we can sit down and read the solemn story of man's history from his birth, through all his mutations, and thus learn to reverence our ancestors, ascertain our own descent, and find the secret sources of the great problem we call life. If a man be merely

utilitarian, he may here get himself ready for his calling, prepare himself for his examination, increase the worldly wisdom that will better fit him for his profession, his trade, or other means of making money. It will even be a place of pastime, for what amusement more innocent, more sweet and gracious, more refreshing, than the poetry and other works of imagination of hosts of our beloved authors. By its magic aid we can choose our companions among the wisest, best, noblest, and most charming of men and women. And this Library will be a great reception room where we may hold intercourse with the greatest intellects in the world's history—the master-spirits of the race, and we may enjoy their converse when and so long as we will. This Library will be free to all, with no restrictions but such as decency and order demand. We might inscribe over the portals the welcome of the Hebrew prophet of old: "Ho. every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come!" Who can picture the far-reaching educational possibilities of this Library? It is in the constant, silent, and pervasive influence of the Library that its power resides.

The good that David Scott Mitchell has done will live after him, and will not be interred with his bones. It is a matter of regret that no portrait nor bust of this great benefactor to the community is available. The Government offered to have a portrait or bust made, and private friends subscribed enough to have a picture painted by a celebrated artist, but the innate modesty of the donor would not allow him to accede to this request. This building will, however, be a monument to him "more enduring than brass," and we might inscribe in its vestibule the same motto as was used as an epitaph for the great architect of St. Paul's Cathedral: "Si monumentum requiris, circumspice"—(If you seek a monument to this man, look about you). A century hence, when the donor and his admirers shall have passed away, when this city shall have become the rival in the southern seas of the cities of the old world, when science shall have realized more of its great victories, and answers shall have been found to many of the enigmas which now perplex mankind, this Institution will, I am confident, be found to be a treasurehouse of all that is worth preserving in our national history and literature; it will have been found faithful to its duty of disseminating amongst all classes whatever is best in human thought and endeavour; and then probably a true estimate of the great benefaction which we commemorate to-day will be possible, and the citizens of New South Wales will be able to record what they owe to David Scott Mitchell.

At the termination of the Premier's speech, the Hon. J. F. Burns, the doyen of the Library Trustees, moved a vote of thanks to the Premier. The Hon. J. Hayes, M.L.C., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation. On the motion of Mr. Carruthers a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kethel.

Mr. Kethel called for cheers for the King and for Mr. David Scott Mitchell, which were heartily given, and the ceremony ended.



THE MITCHELL LIBRARY. MAY, 1911.



Appendix D.

Proceedings at the Ceremony of declaring the Mitchell Wing of the Public Library of New South Wales open to the Public.

The 8th March, 1910, might, in the annals of the Public Library of New South Wales, well be marked with a red letter. On that day the most numerous, the most comprehensive, and the most valuable collection of printed books, manuscripts, engravings, coins, paintings, and tokens relating to Australasia which had ever been collected by a private citizen (probably even by a public institution) was declared open to the public, under the provisions of the will of the donor, David

Scott Mitchell, M.A., of Sydney.

Apologies for absence were received from His Excellency the Admiral and Lady Poore, the Hon. the Premier and Mrs. Wade, the Hon. the Chief Justice, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Town Clerk and Mrs. Nesbitt, Mrs. A. M. Merewether, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Cohen, Mr. Justice and Mrs. Simpson, Mr. Justice and Mrs. O'Connor, Judge and Mrs. Murray, Judge Rogers, Judge Gibson, the Principal Librarians of the Public Libraries of Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, and Queensland. Sir Sydney and Lady Jones, Lady and Miss Manning, Messrs. W. R. Bligh, John Tebbutt, C. B. Stephen, K.C., Thos. Whitle'y, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest H. Wilshire, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Pittman and Dr. John Marden.

The President of the Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales, Professor MacCallum, M.A., LL.B., presided at the ceremony. Amongst the very large number of literary, professional, and public men present were, His Excellency Governor Chelmsford and Staff; the Hon. J. A. Hogue (Minister of Public Instruction); the Hon. C. A. Lee (Secretary for Public Works); Sir Francis Suttor (President of the Legislative Council); the Archbishop of Sydney (Dr. Wright); the Presbyterian Moderator (Rev. J. Ferguson); Archdeacon Boyce; Sir Albert Gould (President of the Senate); Messrs. J. Gormly, M.L.C.; H. Gullett, M.L.C.; F. Flowers, M.L.C.; Messrs. D. Storey, M.L.A.; A. James, M.L.A.; Colonel Vernon, Government Architect: H. C. L. Anderson (Under-Secretary for Agriculture, and formerly Principal Librarian); H. E. Barff (Registrar, Sydney University); C. J. Saunders and G. McKay (Members of the Public Service Board); Dr. A. Houison; Mr. F. C. Curtis; Captain Rolleston, R.N., and the following Trustees of the Public Library:-Sir Normand MacLaurin, M.L.C. (Chancellor of the University); Dr. Creed, M.L.C.; Alex. Kethel, M.L.C.; Mr. J. L. Fegan; Mr. Arthur Dowling, and Mr. D. Levy, B.A. LL.B., M.L.A.

Address by the President.

Professor MacCallum, in opening the proceedings, said:—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,-

The last six months have been marked by two important incidents of a very similar kind in the intellectual progress of the State. The erection of two great Libraries, the Fisher Library at the University and the Mitchell Wing of the Public Library, has been completed; and for the first time in New South Wales, we have edifices on a grand scale, an ornament to the city and a delight to the eye, that have been devised from the outset for the harbouring and arrangement of books, and for the convenience of those who consult them. But books contain the gathered wisdom of mankind in the past and present; and when that wisdom is accumulated by the individual citizen for the common good, and is honoured with such noble habitations by the community at large, it is fair to infer that it is generally prized and respected. For the Fisher and Mitchell Libraries are alike in this, that the contents and endowments have been bestowed by private men for public uses, but that the buildings which perpetuate the names of the donors, have been contributed by the people, acting through Parliament, on the advice of the Government. Personal initiative and State aid have joined hands; in this domain at least Individualism and Socialism have kissed each other; the one and the many have combined for the advantage of all and some.

But in certain ways, again, the two Libraries are very unlike. The premises of the elder are practically complete, whatever additions they may need and receive in the remote future. The younger (as you will see if you look at the handsome model kindly furnished by Colonel Vernon) is only the fragment of a larger design, is only a flank of the great National Library, which we so badly want, and with which we hope the Government may soon see its way to proceed; for the Reference Library across the street was not at first intended for its present purpose, and even as a makeshift it is now overcrowded almost beyond the possibility of management.

But besides the difference between the two buildings, there is a difference between the two collections. The Fisher, like our own Reference Library, embraces most kinds of subjects and caters for most types of students; its scope is general. The Mitchell Library has its one distinctive feature, and appeals to a particular class of specialists. Though it contains many other rare and valuable works, its peculiar province lies in the records, the literature, the descriptions and notices of Australia from every point of view. In short, it provides the apparatus for studying the antecedents and origins, the surroundings and growth of this particular member of the British Imperial family.

And in this connection, I cannot suppress my regrets that my honoured predecessor, Dr. Norton, is no longer here to preside, when at last Mr. Mitchell's persistent wish is realised and his cherished acquisitions are placed within the reach of any who will turn them to account. Dr. Norton knew Mr. Mitchell from their early days; for twenty-eight years as Trustee, for sixteen years as President, he gave lavishly

of his time and energy (how much of them only those behind the scenes can ever know), to the affairs of the Public Library of which this is a Branch; above all his heart was filled with love for bygone Australia, his mind was stored with the traditions which it is an object of this collection to preserve—traditions which in his mouth gained in interest and raciness from the caustic humour with which he was wont to narrate them. He would have been the man to represent the Trustees to-day, and bid you welcome on their behalf.

He indeed had gone from us, ere the laying of the foundation stone, to which he so looked forward, took place here about three and a half years ago. Since then we have other losses, of which the chief that concerns us now was the death of our benefactor, David Scott Mitchell, on July 24, 1907. We cannot but lament that it was not given him to see the noble fabric in which his treasures have found their home. But, at least, he had the satisfaction of knowing that it was to be, that it was already begun, of knowing, moreover, something of the fashion and

arrangements of the House Beautiful that would soon arise.

For the Mitchell Library, such as you see it, the thanks of the Trustees, and of the public, are due in many quarters. First to the Reid Government, which in 1898, through Mr. Hogue, then and now Minister for Education, and always the true friend and zealous advocate of this Institution—through Mr. Hogue, and chiefly by means of his representations—accepted the one, but by no means inconsiderable, condition that Mr. Mitchell attached to his gift, viz., that a suitable building should be erected for the National Library, and provision made in it for keeping the Mitchell Collection intact and by itself. Then to the Government of Sir (at that time Mr.) Joseph Carruthers, whose sympathetic attitude to the project in 1905 so pleased Mr. Mitchell, that the latter increased his bequest from £20,000 to £70,000; and who, with his colleagues, immediately selected this attractive and convenient site, had the plans for the whole building prepared, and in the following year commenced operations, Sir Joseph himself laying the Commemoration Stone. Then to Mr. Wade, to Mr. Lee, once more as ever to Mr. Hogue, and to the other members of the present Government for their continued assistance and support. Then to Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, formerly Principal Librarian, who, from a tour of inspection in Europe and America, brought back the latest and most improved ideas on Library construction, and placed them at the disposal of the Government Architect, Colonel Vernon. Then to the Government Architect himself, who, as you see, has contrived to reconcile these practical requirements with the claims of æsthetic dignity and taste; and to the Assistant Architect, Mr. McRae, for his vigilant and unwearied supervision. Lastly, to the present Principal Librarian, Mr. Bladen, well known as an expert in Australiana of all kinds, and to the Mitchell Librarian, Mr. Wright, with their staff, for so soon reducing to some sort of order this medley of things "rich and rare." I say, "so soon," for the time allowed them has not been long. I am aware that many have expected the Library to be opened earlier, but at any rate, its officials have not been at fault. Nor do I think that anyone is much to blame. Let me explain the situation. All that you can see, from the masonry to the fittings, except a few trifling items-chief among them the readingchairs—which could not be made here without great expense, are so far as possibl

of Australian material and Australian workmanship. Much had to be set about in a tentative, experimental way; unforeseen difficulties arose, unavoidable accidents occurred. To those who know the circumstances, the delay does not appear excessive; and I think you will agree that this Australian Collection demanded in all rational measure an Australian setting to match, and that the result reflects credit on those who were entrusted with the task.

Thanks then to the liberality of the people, exercised through successive Parliaments and Governments employing the willing services of their officers, we have here a worthy shrine for Mr. Mitchell's gift, which is at the same time a national monument to Mr. Mitchell's memory. He it is to whom our gratitude is chiefly due; he it is whom this ceremony specially summons us to remember. After his death much was said and written in his honour by those who knew him longer and more intimately than I; and it is not for me to weaken their tributes by attempting to re-echo them. But on this occasion, when it is our first duty and privilege to commemorate with all pious reverence the name of our benefactor, I wish to avoid the strain of official eulogy and to give my words a personal touch. Permit me then to tell you two incidents from my own experience, which I like to recall and which seem to me in some ways to characterise the man. The one dates back to 1887, when I first arrived in New South Wales. My books were some time in following; and, as in those days the Public Library and the University Library were not so well equipped as they are now, I was at a loss how to proceed with the ordinary work of my classes. Mr. Mitchell came to the rescue, and through a common friend, offered me free access to his shelves and the loan of any volumes I might want. But he would not receive me even to accept my thanks, and it was only some eight years afterwards that I made his acquaintance, through the introduction of his cousin, Miss Rose Scott. Here you see the shy recluse, who shrank from the sight of a new face; but in the recluse there was nothing of the misanthrope; he was ever ready to further work that seemed in his eyes to be ministering to Australian culture.

The other incident occurred many years later. I wished to verify the transcript of a not very important passage from a not very well known 16th Century book, and asked him if he had it. Without replying, he rose from his chair—his usual chair—the chair on which you, your Excellency, are sitting, for we have secured it as a memento—went straight to the shelf, took down the volume without seeming to look for it, and in less than five minutes had found the sentences. Evidently, he not only bought, as this collection sufficiently shows, but read; and this has sometimes been questioned. Most unjustly. He was no mere bibliomaniac, no mere victim of the collector's itch, but a bibliophile, a lover of books, a scholar in his own departments.

And what departments were these? He had two loves. The first was Elizabethan Literature, and especially Elizabethan Literature in the venerable early editions. There are several of these in his library; and some, that the student in Australia might hardly expect to see without travelling twelve thousand miles, may be consulted in this collection.

But in all Elizabethan authors, not only in the poets but in the poetasters and poeticules, in the dramatists, the critics, the pamphleteers, the historians, the

geographers and travellers, one of the dominant notes is Patriotism, an intense pride and delight in their country, an absorbing interest in its present, past and future. Is it fanciful to suggest that Mr. Mitchell's patriotic feeling for Australia may have been fanned by the patriotic feeling for England he found among his Elizabethan favourites? Such virtue has gone out from them before now on more occasions than one; and in Mr. Mitchell's youth local Australian patriotism was not, I am told, so pronounced or confident as it has since become. At any rate, from whatever cause, his perspective gradually changed, and long before the end, he had made it his master purpose to acquire all possible material—books, MSS... coins, pictures—that referred to the history, and by preference, to the early history of his native land. It is the wealth of these that makes the Mitchell collection unique, and practically priceless. It is the grand repository for the history of Australia, surpassing even those in London and in San Francisco. Perhaps the preciousness of the great gift that Mr. Mitchell has made to the State is not in all quarters fully realised. I do not refer to the sum of f100,000 at which experts appraise it, nor to the munificent bequest of £70,000 for its maintenance and expansion, since men are sometimes willing to pay high for mere curiosities. I refer to its inherent worth. I wish to lay stress on this, for I have heard people talk as though the Mitchell Library were a sort of glorified lumber-room, rubbish-heap, and wastepaper basket. Let me explain my own very different view by an analogy drawn from home conditions. What would we now give if, for the history of early Britain, a collection of all available material had been made a hundred years after the Celtic, or the Roman, or the English, or the Danish, or even the Norman settlement? Nothing of the kind was attempted till the days of Leland in the reign of Henry VIII.. Even then, Leland's Collectanea were, for the most part, neglected and exposed to dispersion and waste, till some fifty years later, such of them as were left, were cared for, housed, and supplemented by Sir Robert Cotton, to form the famous Cotton Collection in the British Museum. How many and how great are the gaps in it! Yet even as it stands, how infinitely in its debt are the antiquaries, the historians and scholars of Britain and of Europe!

Now Mr. Mitchell, to my mind, was at once the Leland and the Cotton of Australia. Like the one, he set himself to bring together the documents; like the other, he set himself to secure their preservation and lodgment under one roof. Nor is this all. He had begun his work well within a century from the first British settlement, and he made provision that it should continue after his death, and with every year become more perfect and complete. He has, moreover, both given an example to other owners of old records and relics of the worthy use to which they may be put, and provided them with a magazine in which such memorials will find their natural place. Already the results begin to show themselves. Australia has no lack of public-spirited children, who, when a suggestion is made and shown to be practicable, seize an opportunity for filial service. In the past year, the Mitchell Collection has been enriched with valuable pictures presented by Mrs. Victor B. Hall and Mr. R. N. Sheridan; with illustrated periodicals presented by Mr. J. Plummer; above all, with 286 MS. volumes comprising the Judge's notes and correspondence of our second Chief Justice, Sir James Dowling, during the stormy and critical

period of Governor Darling's regime, generously presented along with other heir-looms by Sir James's grandson, my fellow trustee, Mr. James Arthur Dowling, whose interest in the affairs of the Mitchell and Reference Libraries is constant and inexhaustible. I would fain quote from the pages the very human accounts of these

Old, unhappy, far-off things. And battles long ago—

battles waged, I am sorry to say, your Excellency, for the most part between the Governor and the Judges. But time is short, and I must pass over these matters, as over many others, which are as full of entertainment as of instruction. Suffice it to say, that Mr. Dowling's donations are the most notable among many notable first fruits from that harvest of public liberality on which we confidently count, and for which the Mitchell Library is at once the seedplot and the garner. What

may we not expect the future to yield?

Such then is the character of this great collection. It has its equipment in general and especially in Elizabethan literature. It is fully stocked with the documents and publications that have any relation with present-day Australia—which, however, we must remember, is still Australia in the making, and will soon be regarded by our descendants as having at most reached its mediæval period. But its crowning and distinctive glory lies in its possession of the authorities for the early story of this continent and of this State, for the times which are already becoming to us the Dark Ages. Is that a small matter? I have compared Mr. Mitchell to Leland and Cotton, and it is such men who made possible William Camden and all his successors. Just as Sir Robert Cotton's ingatherings were utilised for the Britannia, so may we hope that David Scott Mitchell's ingatherings will one day be utilised for an Australia. And if any still question the gain and utility, perhaps our future Camden writing on Australian antiquities, with the help of the Mitchell Collection, may quote the very words of grave apology and rebuke, with which the English Camden, three hundred years ago, prefaces his account of British antiquities, derived so largely from the Cotton Collection: it was a passage that Mr. Mitchell loved, in the stately rendering of Philemon Holland:—

"I am not destitute of reason whereby I might approve this my purpose to well-bred and well-meaning men who tender the glory of their native country; and moreover, could give them to understand that in the study of antiquity—which is always accompanied with dignity and hath a certain resemblance with eternity—there is a sweet food of the mind well befitting such as are of honest and noble disposition. If any there be, which are desirous to be strangers on their own soil and foreigners in their own country, they may so continue and therein flatter themselves. For such like, I have not written these lines nor taken these pains."

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the pleasure of asking His Excellency, who at personal inconvenience has honoured us with his presence to-day, to fulfil the other part of his gracious promise, by addressing us and declaring the library open.



THE OPENING CEREMONY IN THE ART GALLERY OF THE MITCHELL LIBRARY.



Address by the Governor.

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD CHELMSFORD said:—

I regard it as a great privilege to be invited this afternoon to perform the opening ceremony of this Mitchell Library. Professor MacCallum has alluded in his eloquent speech, and I am glad that he has given us a taste of his quality, to the fact that we have had in the last six months two libraries erected in Sydney, and this is the second time I have been invited to perform a similar function. There is a broad distinction however between the two occasions. (Cheers.) In the case of the University Library the ceremony had chiefly to do with the building: the library itself had been in use, and all that was required by the University was a worthy home for it, and sufficient accommodation for the students who availed themselves of the library. But on this occasion, I have not only to declare a fine building open, but I have to make available for the use of the public a library of unique and surpassing interest to all Australians. I was glad when Professor MacCallum alluded to the architect of these two noble libraries, with which I have been connected during my short sojourn in this State. We are fortunate, in Sydney, to have in our midst an architect of the distinction of Colonel Vernon. (Cheers.) He has provided for us almost contemporaneously two admirable buildings, in the Fisher Library and this Mitchell Wing of the Public Library—admirable not only architecturally, but from the point of view of the purposes which they are intended to serve. There is, however, a second distinction to be observed. In the case of the Fisher Library, the books had been collected more especially for the use of students, and were made easy for their assimilation, and had been, if I may use the expression, peptonised for their better digestion. But in this case a very different state of things exists. We come here upon the origin of things—upon the raw materials—the stuff of which books are made; not easily assimilated, not easily digested, but waiting for the hand of the master-worker to bring good fruit out of it. (Cheers.) And this fact brings two questions to my mind as a layman: How are we to value this library? And how are we to use it? May I at the outset enter a caveat against any reference to the pecuniary value of this library. The value of this library cannot be estimated in terms of money, and, therefore, I regard any such estimate and reference as, in the first place, beside the mark, because there is no question of attempting to sell this library, and, secondly, sacrilegious, because I think reference to money in the case of works of art and things like this library tends to degrade the whole standpoint from which we ought to regard them. I am afraid I sometimes lose my patience when I am assured that twenty years ago a picture had cost £2,000, but now it would cost flo,000. Such works of art have an inherent and intrinsic merit of their own, and the merit cannot be gauged in terms of money. (Cheers.) To my mind it is not a question of what this library might fetch if it were offered in the open market. Its special merit lies in the fact that we have in it, miraculously preserved for us, relics of our national life, which, but for the loving care of one man, Mr. Mitchell, might have been mere flotsam and jetsam on the ocean of life. In this collection we have records which are not mere records, but history themselves. You can touch and handle things here which, if they did not exist, would have meant that Australian history would have to have been written in a different way. But while you may regard these things as dry and uninteresting, I am confident that some day a man will come along who will touch with the finger of genius these dry bones and make them live. (Cheers.) So we ought to value this library as relics of our national existence—part of ourselves—and give it the very highest reverence that we can. Then, how are we to use it? The answer to this question depends largely on the answer to the first, because as we value it so shall we use it. As I have pleaded for reverence in regard to its estimation, so I would also plead for reverence in our use of it, and I would make this plea in the case of any similar collection of records. There is much stuff on these shelves that wants reverent handling, much material which would furnish very fine copy for those gentlemen whose remuneration is, I think, a penny a line. (Laughter.) I hope, therefore, that the trustees will, so far as is consistent with due liberty of research, take proper precautions against any improper or irreverent use of this library. Secondly, may I hope that those who are going to mine in this quarry will do so in search of truth? The scientific worker—and no worker will achieve success unless he is scientific must always be true. Science has no greater claim for distinction than this—that it pursues the truth, regardless of established theories. And may I call in aid the words of the greatest and most humble-minded of modern scientists. Charles Darwin? I shall only trouble you with two brief quotations: "I have steadily endeavoured to keep my mind free so as to give up any hypothesis, however much beloved, as soon as facts are shown to be against it." And, again—"It is a golden rule, which I try to follow, to put every fact which is opposed to one's preconceived opinion in the strongest light. Absolute accuracy is the hardest merit to attain, and the highest merit: any deviation is ruin." I have been emboldened to lay stress on those qualities of reverence and truth, for although I have not been privileged to know Mr. Mitchell. I have tried to think what are his prominent characteristics, looking at him through his own collection. It seems to me that you find his reverence in the loving care with which he brought all these things together which pertain to Australia. (Cheers.) You also find his reverence in the care with which he has assured that there should be a proper and dignified building to enshrine these relics. I think you find pre-eminently the mark of truth in Mr. Mitchell, when you look at the catholicity of this collection. There is no undue emphasis in any direction— Mr. Mitchell has swept in everything on all sides. Some day a man may come, and may be able to dive into this collection, and bring truth out of the bottom of it. (Cheers.) I have much pleasure in declaring this library open. (Cheers.)

Address by the Minister of Public Instruction.

Hon. J. A. Hogue, M.L.A., Minister of Public Instruction, said:-

I account it a great honor to be in this way identified with an event of such permanent interest, so picturesque and so impressive, as the one we are engaged in to-day—the official opening of the Mitchell Library.

We are taking part in an event of national importance and far-reaching significance. The doors of this great treasure-house of knowledge are from to-day

open to the public for all time.

I have been looking forward to this event, as I am sure you all have, with deep interest and with feelings of the liveliest satisfaction. I have for some few years had before me the prospect of Australia coming into a great and priceless inheritance—of its kind, one of the most precious that the mind of man could conceive. Only one who was a great philanthropist and at the same time imbued with the loftiest spirit of patriotism, could have conceived the idea of making to his native country a gift such as this—a library that will challenge comparison with any of the great private libraries in the world. I confess that at this moment the feeling uppermost with me is one of pride in our country—pride that Australia should thus early in its career have produced a son endowed with the far-seeing patriotism of David Scott Mitchell. The late Mr. Mitchell had consecrated the best years of his life to the realisation of a grand and noble ideal. As I accompanied the little band of mourners that followed his mortal remains to their last resting-place a little over two years ago, I shared the general regret then felt that he was not to be spared to witness the realisation of his lofty ambition and his most cherished hopes. But it was his consolation to know that his life's work was not wasted, that the noble project to which he had devoted his life and fortune was to be carried out to the very letter of his instructions.

It is now over nine years since Mr. Mitchell made the munificent offer of the whole of his priceless historical collection to the Government of New South Wales. I happened to be the member of the then Government of Mr. Reid through which the offer was made. It was my privilege to wait on Mr. Mitchell at his private residence, and with the then Public Librarian, Mr. H. C. L. Anderson, to spend some time in inspecting the vast and wonderful collection of books, manuscripts, paintings, engravings, charts, and relics which he had got together. That was in October, 1898. I at once, on behalf of the Government, accepted the munificent offer, and placed on record my appreciation of the patriotic spirit that had prompted it. Certain conditions were attached to the gift, one of which was that the collection should be specially provided for and housed in a separate wing of the National Library, and that it should bear his name. Assurance was given to Mr. Mitchell that the conditions should be faithfully observed. This magnificent building is the result. Owing to political changes, the Government to which Mr. Mitchell's offer was made was not destined to see the project carried out. Nothing was done for some five or six years. But one of the earliest acts of the Government of which Sir Joseph Carruthers was the head was to set about giving effect to Mr. Mitchell's wishes. The erection of the Mitchell Library was provided for, and the commemoration stone of this edifice was laid on the 11th September, 1906. Many now present may recollect the eloquent and very appropriate addresses delivered on the occasion by Mr. Alexander Kethel, Acting-President of the Public Library, and by the then Premier, Sir Joseph Carruthers.

It would have been a public misfortune if this priceless collection had been lost to the State. Yet we narrowly missed it. Happily Mr. Mitchell, whose health

had long been failing, lived to see a beginning made with the work of erecting the building that was to hold his collection of works and other treasures. He was not present at the laying of the foundation stone, but to him that event was ample

compensation for years of anxiety and hope deferred.

Mr. Mitchell was one of the most retiring and modest of men. He could not even be prevailed on to allow himself to sit for a bust of himself, which it was the wish of the Trustees and the Government to see placed in the vestibule of the Library. That may to many be a matter of regret. But to paraphrase the sentiments of a famous architect, if you want to see his monument, look around you.

I cannot hope to adequately convey even a faint idea of the value to this generation of Australians, and to posterity, of the unique collection of literary, historical, and artistic treasures of which this building is the repository. To overrate its value as an aid to the study of the history of Australia would be impossible. It has frequently been said that, without the works in the Mitchell Library, the history of Australia could at best be most imperfectly written, for there are in that collection books, papers, manuscripts, and other records nowhere else available. Mr. Mitchell, who was a scholar and a close student of literature, was an ardent lover of books. He was a great bibliophile. Books were his favourite companions. Few understood better than he the educational, artistic, and historical value of a book, a poem, or manuscript. He was particularly keen on obtaining books relating to Australia and treating of its discovery, history, and progress. No book, newspaper, magazine, manuscript, map, chart, engraving, pamphlet, poem, picture, or old coin or relic, throwing any light on the early or later history of the great southland but would find in him a ready purchaser. In this way was this wonderful treasury of knowledge built up. At the time the offer was made of the library, it consisted of some 30,000 volumes of books, besides other treasures. Since then and up to the time of its founder's death in 1907, it was constantly added to, and now comprises in books alone over 60,000 volumes. The number of volumes had thus been more than doubled within a period of eleven years. But this is not all. Mr. Mitchell left a great share of his large fortune for the future upkeep and upbuilding of the library, thus freeing it from the charges that would otherwise have had to be borne by the State. Not that the people of this State would begrudge any charge incidental to so valuable a possession.

All honor then to the name of David Scott Mitchell! Sydney, his native city, will ever be proud of having given birth to such a son, and his name will live

in the hearts of future generations of Australians for all time.

I am glad to see here to-day, joining in these proceedings and giving their countenance to what has been done, representatives of the family to which Mr. Mitchell belonged. I desire to publicly acknowledge the generous spirit in which members of the Merewether family have co-operated with the Government in giving effect to the will of their deceased relative. In a bequest from an estate comprising many properties, variously held, some legal technicalities necessarily had to be met with, and unavoidable delay. Thanks to the ready assistance of the official executors in the estate and the beneficiaries under the will, there has been no hitch or delay of any kind in connection with this magnificent bequest. How can we assess the value of such a gift as this? It is impossible to adequately estimate it. A possession such as this is priceless. No mere money valuation, high though that would necessarily be, could express its worth. Apart from its intrinsic merits, the Mitchell bequest has an inestimable value as an example to others, and I am sure we can all join most heartily in what has already been said on that score, and in the hopes that Mr. Mitchell's example will find many followers.

I have already referred to the importance of this great collection as an aid to the right understanding of the discovery and history of Australia. In this respect Australia may be deemed the most fortunate of countries. In no other part of the world are the national archives, the materials for history, so complete as here. But it is not alone from the view-point of the historian and the student of history that the Mitchell Library appeals to our admiration. A library is a universal educator. Thomas Carlyle has told us that "the true university in these days is a collection of books." It is easy to understand the keen desire in ancient and modern times, among all nations, to establish and maintain libraries. Libraries have been happily described as the torchlights of the world. Generations, empires, pass away. Their deeds, their achievements, their hopes and fears, their triumphs and disasters, their mistakes, their inmost thoughts, are stored up in imperishable records for the edification, the entertainment, the guidance of men. Libraries bring back the dead past to the living present. The spirit of all the ages is there. Sages had written and taught, and warriors had fought and bled to little purpose had their thoughts and their deeds passed into oblivion. The books that treasure up the thoughts that have moved the world are mankind's most precious possession. In the noble language of the poet Wordsworth:

Books are yours,
Within whose silent chambers treasure lies,
Preserved from age to age; more precious far
Than that accumulated store of gold
And orient gems, which, for a day of need,
The Sultan hides deep in ancestral tombs.
Those hoards of truth you can unlock at will.

I here express the hope that access to the precious stores of knowledge reposing silently on the shelves of this beautiful building is not to be regarded as the peculiar privilege of the leisured class, the bookworm, or the literary trifler. The works in this edifice are for the use and benefit of all. I trust the advantages of this splendid library will be availed of by all true seekers after knowledge, by all classes—the humblest, the poorest, as well as those better circumstanced. Here all may meet on common ground and for a common purpose, for this is a people's possession. That beyond all doubt was the intention of its founder. Australians then can best honor the memory of David Scott Mitchell by coming often and drinking freely from the fountains of knowledge which he has placed within their reach, without favour and without price.

I join heartily in the congratualtions already offered to the people of New South Wales, and indeed of all Australia, on coming into this most magnificent inheritance.

Address by the Secretary of Public Works.

The Hon. C. A. Lee, Secretary of Public Works, said he was pleased that the fragment of the building referred to by Professor MacCallum, which was the first portion of the great National Library, had given satisfaction to all critics. It formed the Mitchell Wing, and had been constructed in the first instance to comply with the conditions of the bequest. Some little impatience had already been expressed that the additional wings had not yet been proceeded with. But the design for the completed library had been approved and its construction authorised. When the Government accepted Mr. Mitchell's condition they knew that it involved more than the mere housing of his unique and priceless collection, and, therefore, the National Library was decided upon in which to centre the whole of the libraries under Government control. The remaining portion of this national work would be proceeded with in the near future. Although the Mitchell collection had bees given to New South Wales, and had been housed by the people of this State, it was intended for a reference library for the whole of the Australian people, and an such he believed it would occupy a very high position in the minds of the historians and others, who would, by research, discover the priceless value of this patriotic bequest. The selection of this site for its great purpose could not probably be improved upon, while the structure will prove to be an architectural monument for many generations.

Mr. Arthur Dowling said:-

Your Excellency, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I appreciate very much the complimentary remarks I have heard to-day

about myself, and I thank you for your cordial reception of them.

I am much gratified that I am the first large contributor to add to Mi Mitchell's splendid collection, and I hope that the donation will be an incentive to others to do likewise by presenting their historical records and collections to us for custody here, where they will be treasured and carefully preserved. As the volumes I have given contain matter entirely of public interest, I think they have found their proper home, and I am very pleased that they are permanently deposited here.

Now I do not think I have done anything so praiseworthy, for by reason of the authorship of the books I could not, with propriety and decency, have sold them. In any event, I could not legally have done so to my own Trust, and if I had disposed of them with a view to making money out of them they would most probably, in fact, almost to a certainty, have been resold by the purchaser to this Library at an advanced price; thus I should have indirectly done, or helped to do, what I could not have legally done.



THE MANUSCRIPT ROOM.



The absence of the Hon. the Premier and some of his colleagues is to be regretted; they are in the country on public business, and could not, much as they wished, return in time to be here, but the Trustees welcome the Acting-Premier (the Hon. C. A. Lee) and thank him for what he has done as Minister for Works, for the completion of the National Library, and for what we have heard him promise to-day, and I am sure it must be gratifying to you to see the Minister of Public Instruction (the Hon. J. A. Hogue), who has Ministerial control of the Public Library, with us, for he has been a good friend in lending a sympathetic ear to Mr. Mitchell's views and influencing the then Government to comply with his conditions and stipulations relating to this magnificent gift, with the result that the State is now the possessor of the whole of his valuable library, which, in addition to other literature, contains the largest single Australian—I should say Australasian—library extant, and this magnificent building, the Mitchell Wing of the new National Library, in which to house it.

On behalf of the Trustees and the public I thank Mr. Hogue for his successful advocacy, his sympathy with, and the keen interest he has always taken in

our Library matters, and for his presence here to-day.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, New South Wales has been fortunate indeed in having had a long succession of eminent and successful Governors (portraits of many of whom you will see on the walls of this Gallery) from Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., the first, who established and proclaimed the Colony of New South Wales in 1788, to our dear old friend, Sir Harry Rawson, who left the State after an extended period of office, taking with him the goodwill, affection, and best wishes of the whole community. We then felt his departure was an irreparable loss, however, and much as we revere and miss him, we pride ourselves in having Lord Chelmsford as his successor. We still have good luck: When His Excellency was Governor of Queensland, we were able to know of his worth and estimable qualities by newspaper reports and hearsay only: now that we have come in contact with him and are able to personally form our own opinions, we are satisfied he is an unqualified success, and we wish him a brilliant and prosperous career.

I now beg to propose a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency for his gracious presence to-day and declaring this Institution open, and I ask you to carry it by acclamation.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation; and the proceedings terminated with three cheers for His Majesty the King.

AN APPRECIATION.

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AUSTRALIANA.

A WONDERFUL COLLECTION.

WORK OF A GENIUS.

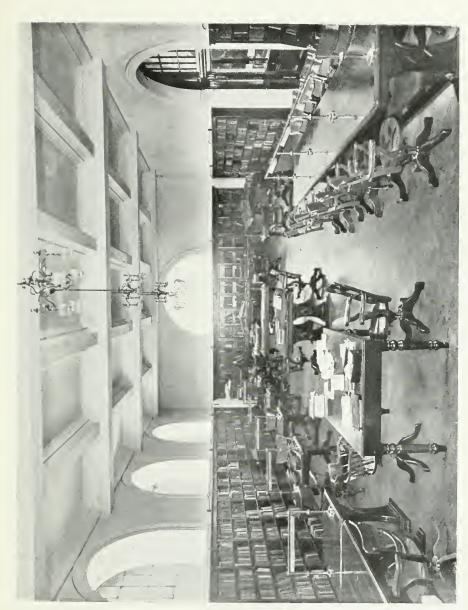
The Mitchell Wing of the National Library of New South Wales, that which houses the library bequeathed to the State by the late Mr. D. S. Mitchell, was formally opened yesterday afternoon by the State Governor.

There was a large and distinguished gathering. The opening ceremony took

place in the picture gallery on the first floor.

Experts have valued the Mitchell collection at £100,000. That is from the commercial point of view. What it is worth as a repository of the facts of Australian history is an incalculable amount. In addition to the collection itself the donor left a sum of £70,000 to continue the work he began. The State has nobly housed the magnificent bequest. The building, the arrangement, the furnishing, &c., have all been done under a sense of the permanence, the importance, and the regard for solid comfort which should attach to such work. As far as possible the furnishings are Australian. Nothing is of inflammable material that could reasonably be made of more enduring substances. The window sashes, doors, staircases, and bookshelves are of steel, handsomely wrought. Reading tables and desks are in jarrah teak: revolving chairs in American oak. Natural lighting has been studied in the construction to the fullest possible extent, and there is also a very complete installation of electric light. The tables and reading desks are so illuminated that while a well-diffused but brilliant light is thrown on the surface, the source is entirely hidden from the eye. There is no glare. Gas finds no place in the building. All the windows are made of muffled and tinted glass, which diffuses a soft light, and at the same time tends to preserve the leather bindings.

Since the collection was taken over by the State it has been under the immediate care of Mr. Hugh Wright, the assistant librarian of the Free Public Library. Mr. Wright is now the Mitchell Librarian, under the general supervision of Mr. Bladen, the principal of the Free Library. An enthusiastic and efficient curator of the treasures of the collection committed to him Mr. Wright will be found to be. But intense as has been his work during the past couple of years in overhauling and arranging the books and manuscripts, the pictures, photographs, maps, drawings, documents, coins, tokens, and the hundred-and-one other things that compose the collection, there is still years of toil ahead of him before he can hope to be cognisant of the full



No. 1 READING ROOM MITCHELL LIBRARY.



extent of the treasure. There are many drawers full of documents which have yet to be sorted out; many portraits and pictures of places which have to be identified and classified.

IN THE IRON SAFE.

Meanwhile, there is enough on the walls and the shelves, and in the safes and drawers and cupboards, where arrangement has been carried out, to keep the visitor with an eye to see and a mind to comprehend, engaged for a lifetime. It is, of course, in regard to Australiana that the library has its chief value for us. Apart from the pictures, which are arranged in a fine gallery on the first floor, the rarest and most valuable articles are the original manuscript journals, note-books, letters, and drawings, either of early Australians themselves, or of those connected with the earliest history of the continent. From a large safe in his own room on the ground floor Mr. Wright will produce, for instance, the very journal in which Sir Joseph Banks made his notes of the voyage which resulted in the planting of the British flag at Kurnell, on the shores of Botany Bay. The journal covers the period from 1768 to 1771—the whole extent of Captain Cook's voyage in the "Endeavour." It is interesting to note that Botany Bay was not the original name of that haven. It was first known as Stingray Bay. In two or three places Banks first wrote the name "Stingray," but subsequently scored it out and interlined his MS. with the word "Botany."

A large bound volume contains the receipts for articles purchased, and correspondence in connection with the second trip to Australia which Banks proposed to take with Cook on the "Resolution." Being a man of wealth, Sir Joseph himself outfitted the scientific expedition which he proposed to lead under the guidance of the great navigator, merely stipulating that the Admiralty should furnish him and the members of his expedition with reasonable accommodation. He purchased the necessaries, but when he found that the Admiralty had not met him in the other matter in a sufficiently generous spirit he abandoned the trip, and went to Iceland instead. Among the correspondence in the volume is a letter from Captain Cook to Sir Joseph regarding the furnishing of his (Banks') cabin on the "Resolution."

Another Banks' treasure is a MS. account of the mutiny of the "Bounty," written for him by Bligh himself.

EXPLORERS' JOURNALS.

In the same safe are some of the original reports made by the explorers, such as Oxley (1817), Allan Cunningham (1829), and Govett (1830-35). Apropos of the latter, a scrutiny of his notebook amply disproves the truth of a number of romantic explanations current on the Mountains as to the origin of the name "Govett's Leap." A favourite story is that the nomenclature arose because of a famous leap for life made by a bushranger or some other marauder when pursued by the arm of the law. William Romaine Govett, on the contrary, was a surveyor on the staff of Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, the Surveyor-General. Describing some of the waterfalls on the mountains, Govett wrote in his notebook:—"The most remarkable of these cascades is the one near the Weatherboard Hut, and that which flows into the

head of the Grose River, which the Surveyor-General named Govett's Leap, from the circumstance of my first having come upon the spot when surveying with Mr. Rusden, and having sent in a description of the scene in my official letter.'

On the opposite page of the notebook is one of those water-colour pictures with which Govett was wont to give additional value to his notes. It shows a road winding down the side of the mountain, probably near the Victoria Falls, and an ox waggon with the two polers tumbling down the precipice, while the remainder of the team stand on the road. It was his own team. The bullocks took fright at some blacks along the cutting, and bolted. In their downward course they struck a large mass of rock which had become detached from the side of the cutting and fallen on the roadway, with the result stated. "Over it (the waggon) went," Govett wrote, 'accompanied with the shaft bullocks, dashing, thundering, and cracking down the precipice at least 800 feet, where may be seen to this day the skeleton of poor old Redman."

FIRST AUSTRALIAN PUBLICATIONS,

Other manuscripts of great historical value are Governor King's account of the settlement of New South Wales in 1806, and of the General Orders issued by Lieutenant-Governor Patterson, 1795-97. The library also contains a copy of the first book, the first newspaper, the first book of Australian verse, and the first almanac printed and published in Australia. Of the first book there are in this library, in fact, two of the only three copies known to be in existence. It is a small quarto volume, "printed at the Government Press, Sydney, 1802," and bound in buckram. Its contents are general orders. The first almanac is dated 1804. On it Howe, the printer, made his corrections for the 1806 edition. Barron Field's "First Fruits of Australian Poetry" is the poetical work. It was printed in 1819. Of the Sydney Gazette the first files are not so good as those contained in the Free Public Library.

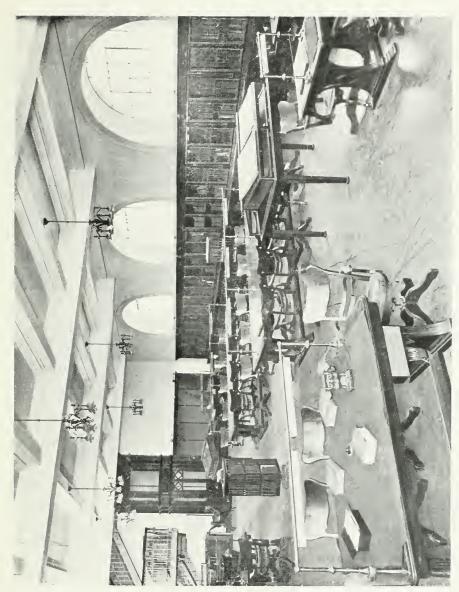
The MSS, of Sir Henry Parkes' poems, Charles Harpur's poems, some or Kendall's poems, and John Farrell's poems are among the rarities of that character

which the collector was able to obtain.

Still turning over the contents of the librarian's safe, one sees two "Books of Hours"-Roman Catholic prayer books-one at least of which dates back half a century before the art of printing-to 1402. They are hand-printed on parchment, with beautifully-illuminated capitals in colour and burnished gold, and illustrated with pictures done in colour. A manuscript copy of the Koran, also a finely-produced work, contains the inscription. "Written by the caligrapher, Muhammad Suhrawardi. Placed in the Royal Library at Delhi, 23rd Dec., A.D., 1608."

COINS AND TOKENS.

A fairly complete collection of coins and tokens illustrative of the currency of New South Wales prior to the establishment of mints in the various colonies, was accumulated by Mr. Mitchell. Among them are the Portuguese johanna, which was current here at £4; the Indian rupee, current at 2s. 6d.; the Dutch guelder, current at 25..; the Spanish dollar, current at 5s..; and the English penny, current



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at 2d. There is also a specimen of the "holey dollar," bearing date 1813. It is explained that in the early days of New South Wales the currency was very restricted, and it was the practice of the colonists to pay for goods brought from England with the coins they possessed, which were then shipped away, being also current in other parts of the world. This accentuated the currency problem. To solve it, the authorities conceived the idea of stamping out the inside portion of the Spanish dollar, thus removing a piece about the diameter of a threepenny piece. The holey dollar retained its face value of 5s. in Australia, but was spoiled for circulation elsewhere, while the centre portion, called the "dump" was circulated as a new coin with a value of about 1s. 3d. Mr. Mitchell was able to secure specimens of both the dollar and the dump. The tokens are a most interesting collection, and some of them are of great rarity. But still the treasures of this safe are not exhausted. It also contains a large collection of miniatures, many of them portraits of Captain Cook, but the most exquisite a likeness of Flora Macdonald. There are also Wedgwood plaques of Solander, Sir Joseph and Lady Banks, Captain Cook, and others.

The journal of Mrs. Reiby, recording the incidents of her trip to England in 1820, shows that she was a woman of education, who wrote a good hand. The fact is interesting in view of the more or less general confounding of the lady with Margaret Catchpole. The collection contains a tracing of a letter written by Margaret Catchpole in 1803, and now contained in the public Record Offices in London. At that time the girl wrote very indifferently, and her spelling was even worse. The records of the Police Court, Sydney, 1815-16, which Mr. Mitchell also secured for his collection, shows that up to 1816 there had been no improvement in Margaret Catchpole's education; on the contrary, she had to make her mark as signature to evidence

which she then gave in a police court case.

IN THE MANUSCRIPT ROOM.

On the shelves in the librarian's room are many rate first editions, autograph presentation copies, &c. The manuscript room adjoining has a rich store of notebooks, logs, letters, official documents, proclamations, broadsides, maps, charts, drawings, &c. There are the correspondence and journals of many of the pioneer South Sea Island missionaries, and their translations of portions of the Bible into the native languages. These are of especial value to philologists, as are also the almost innumerable books in the Australian aboriginal dialects and the Maori language. Braim's manuscript of his account of the Tasmanian aborigines, now an extinct race, is there too. The logs of whalers and missionary ships; of British warships which were in these waters in the early days; personal diaries of such voyages; journals of the explorers—little that could be of value to the Australian historian, or of interest to the future antiquarian, seems to have escaped the collector's grasp. Sir Oswald Brierly's diary of his voyages on Ben Boyd's yacht, "The Wanderer," and also his diary on the "Rattlesnake," contain the rough sketches of some of his subsequent paintings.

Volume after volume of autograph letters from prominent politicians, members of the nobility, the crowned heads of Europe, authors, painters, actors and actresses,

and other people of more or less prominence, occupy the shelves. Of correspondence received by the late Sir Henry Parkes alone there are sixty-three large bound volumes, while the drawers still contain a mass of documents that need to be sorted out. These are the original letters sent to the deceased statesman—from Governors, politicians, officials, and many other people who would naturally correspond with one in his exalted position. Over 100 volumes are necessary to hold Tasmanian official documents, letters, &c., covering the period from 1820 to 1850. Two other thick volumes contain nothing but the original death warrants of Tasmanian convicts. The early records of the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society for a long period of years, records of the police courts held at Sydney, Bathurst, Goulburn, Hobart, and other Australian centres of the first and second quarters of last century, files of the early city and country newspapers—public as well as private archives have been ransacked to supply the demand of this insatiable, but far-seeing and discriminating collector.

ORIGINAL MAPS AND CHARTS.

A large collection of book-plates, photographs, portraits, proclamations, pamphlets, maps, charts, and other historical material has still to be arranged. Maps relating to Australia range from the dawn of the 17th century to date. There is Bradley's original map of the harbours in the county of Cumberland, N.S.W., 1788-9. Bradley was surveying lieutenant to Governor Hunter, and this map gives soundings of Port Jackson, Botany Boy, and Broken Bay, and the Hawkesbury River as far up as Richmond Hill. Bradley's Point (now known as Bradley's Head) was one of the few places named on the map. Other names which appear, in addition to those mentioned, are Sydney Cove, Rose Hill, and Capes Banks and Solander. A map dated 1796 contains the additional names of Kissing Point, Lane Cove, Hunter's Hill, Field of Mars, Toongabbe, Prospect Hill, Parramatta.

No. I reading room, on the ground floor, is devoted wholly to books relating to Australia. It has, however, been found impossible to get into it all such books which the collection contains. Scientific works about the continent, such, for instance, as Australian geologies, are arranged with the geological works in another part of the building. This room, No. 1, is more particularly devoted to the history, biography, and travel of Australia and the surrounding islands. No. 2 room, adjoining, is devoted to quartos and folios, which are classified on the same plan as the books in No. 1 room. Special roller presses have been made for the folio volumes, to save wear and tear in handling. No. 3 reading room, on the first floor, holds the works of general history and biography other than Australian, and the Latin and Greek classics.

THE PICTURE GALLERY.

Two collections of the work of individual artists stand out as of supreme importance in the picture gallery. That of Sir Oswald Brierly, marine painter to Queen Victoria, fills the major portion of the western wall. Its central features are two comparatively large works, "Going to Sea," a scene on the Thames, which would, probably, bring £1,000 on the market any day, and "The 'Black Prince' in a Storm," a picture of almost equal value. "The Spanish Armada off the Coast

of Ireland" is a smaller but none the less fine example of the artist's work. A number of the pictures are associated with the surveying ship in which the artist spent several years along the Great Barrier Reef—H.M.S. "Rattlesnake." "The arrival of H.M.S. 'Galatea,' with H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, off Sydney Heads, Jan. 21, 1868," is practically the original of the illustration which appeared in the book which Sir Oswald Brierly and the chaplain of the "Galatea" produced to record the incidents of the Duke's tour. There are several other Sydney scenes, done on the occasion of the artist's first visit to Sydney, when he lived for a time with the late Mr. Bloxsome at The Rangers' Estate, Mosman. A copy by C. E. S. Tindall of the fresco painted by Sir Oswald at "The Rangers" has a place in the collection. "An Emigrant Ship Arriving off Sydney Heads," and a whaling scene at Twofold Bay in 1844, when Boyd Town was a place of importance in the Colony, are striking pictures also. This is one of the best collections of Brierly's work in existence.

OLD SYDNEY.

Sixty or seventy of Conrad Martens' works, mostly in water colour, splendidly adorn three-fourths of the long southern wall of the gallery. To the New South Welshman with a bent for the study of the history of his State, and to those with recollections of old Sydney, this collection should be a field of great interest. There are many pictures, large and small, of Sydney and the harbour as it was in the "fifties," or thereabout. The Bottle and Glass at Watson's Bay, before some of the most remarkable upright stones were blasted away; Manly Beach, as looked at from the sea, and Sydney from the North Shore may be noticed as one takes a hurried view of the works of this distinguished early Australian painter. There is a water-colour painting of Sydney from the North Shore in 1843, which is an exquisite as well as a most informative piece of work, and another from a different point of view done in oils. Martens did not succeed so well with oils, and there are only three or four of his works of that kind in the gallery. These pictures show Dawes Point, with its old fort in the centre, but destitute of other buildings, and also without its stone waterside wall. On the other side of Sydney Cove the foreshores come down roughly to the water's edge, where now are the wharves of the P. and O. and the Orient companies. Old Government House is seen on its site opposite the present Works Department building, and further to the left rise the stables of the present Government House, then the only portion erected. The old steeple of St. James' is a prominent feature in the background. Two water-colour views of Brisbane in 1852 and 1853 are valuable historic works, as well as excellent pictures from the artistic point of view. An Illawarra landscape and a view near Blackheath in 1848 are other good examples of a remarkably even artistic faculty and skill.

MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES AND PORTRAITS.

On the same wall are hung a number of examples of the work of two other notable early Australian artists, J. Skinner Prout and F. Garling. Prout's pictures include Hobart Town, with Mount Wellington in the distance; Norfolk Island, showing Nepean Island; the Nobbys, at Newcastle; the Willoughby Falls. North

Sydney; and a view on the Plenty, near Melbourne. Garling specialised in marine subjects, and these works of his which Mr. Mitchell secured are interesting on the historical as well as the artistic side. One picture shows the Albion Mills, situated at the foot of Druitt-street, the property of J. Terry Hughes, which were destroyed by fire on March 2, 1841. Another is the west side of Circular Quay in 1834, with a rakish-looking, two-masted United States schooner alongside a wharf. Pictures of the yacht "Zarifa," the property of Charles Parbury: the steamer "Coonanbarra": the R.M.S. "Australian": and Launceston in the early part of the century are included in the Garling group. A. Piguenit, "The Valley of the Grose in 1880," is a fine example of the work of that distinguished artist.

Some effective waterscapes, by F. C. Terry; a few views of Sydney (principally the Rocks) in the "fifties" and "sixties," by J. B. Henderson; a picture of the "Rose," the first iron steamer on Port Jackson, by J. Fowles; a view of old St. Phillip's Church; and a large collection of the works of S. T. Gill, mainly illustrative of life on the Bendigo and other Victorian goldfields, and of Melbourne identities in the middle of last century, are hung in the gallery. Most of Gill's work has a higher historical than artistic value. A sketch of Mosman early in the century, and of the Great Western Road, going down Lapstone Hill to the Emu Plains, evidence that

Gill also worked in this State.

The gallery is also very strong in portraiture and old prints. Many of the early governors, judges, missionaries, explorers, politicians, and other notable men

in Australian history are included in the gallery.

Altogether the collection is, as an expert witness before the Public Works Committee said, one which could have been assembled only by an untrammelled man of genius, with ample wealth and dogged perseverance, with education, and with those much rarer qualities, taste, and discrimination.



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